

Pelosi denies Trump access to House for State of the Union

By KEVIN FREKING, JILL COLVIN and MATTHEW DALY
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a high-stakes case of dare and double-dare, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi served notice that President Donald Trump won't be allowed to deliver his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress on Tuesday after the president said he was aiming to show up even though he was not welcome.

Pelosi told Trump on Wednesday that the House won't approve a resolution allowing him to come until the government reopens. "That's a great blotch on the incredible country that we all love," Trump shot back, calling it a "very, very negative part of history."

Pelosi's snub confronted Trump with the need to find another way to put his views to the nation — one lacking the spectacle and history afforded by a State of the Union speech in the House chamber, the traditional venue.

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President Donald Trump speaks during a healthcare roundtable in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, in Washington. Associated Press



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Dems prepare own border security package shunning Trump wall

By **ALAN FRAM, ANDREW TAYLOR and CATHERINE LUCEY**

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

House Democrats, feeling pressure to display their vision for border security, are preparing a package that would ignore President Donald Trump's demand for \$5.7 billion for a wall with Mexico and would instead pay for other ideas aimed at protecting the border. As the government slogged through a record 33rd day of its partial shutdown Wednesday, details of Democrats' border security plan and its cost remained a work in progress. Party leaders said it would include money for scanning devices and other technological tools for improving security at ports of entry and along the border, plus funds for more border agents and immigration judges.

Democrats' movement toward producing a plan,

which they said they expected to unveil this week, was significant because it underscored a growing uneasiness with letting Trump cast them as soft on border security. It came as the Senate prepared for Thursday votes on rival plans for reopening federal agencies and paying 800,000 federal workers who are just days away from missing yet another paycheck.

Republicans would couple ending the shutdown with financing Trump's wall and revamping immigration laws, while Democrats would reopen agency doors for three weeks while bargainers seek a border security accord.

Both faced likely defeat, but that might spur the two sides into a more serious effort to strike a compromise when each saw it lacked the votes to prevail. Both proposals would need 60 votes to pass in a chamber with 53-47 Republican control.



Democratic Caucus Vice Chair Katherine Clark, D-Mass., accompanied by Democratic Caucus Chairman Rep. Hakeem Jeffries of N.Y., left, speaks at a news conference following a House Democratic Caucus meeting on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

Ominously, there were few signs of anything but continued partisan hostilities. Trump told reporters at the White House that Democrats had become "radicalized" and "a very, very dangerous party," and he took personal aim at Congress' two top Democrats. He said Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer is "very strongly dominated" by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and called him "a puppet for Nancy Pelosi." Schumer, D-N.Y., said the Senate GOP bill reopening government "embodies the president's temper tantrum. If you don't do it my way, I'm shutting down the government and hurting lots of people."

The GOP bill would temporarily protect from deportation 700,000 "Dream-

ers," migrants who arrived in the U.S. illegally as children. They've been shielded by the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which Trump has tried terminating. He's also offered temporary protections for people who fled violence or natural disasters in several countries — a program Trump has also curtailed. Democrats say Trump is merely offering to temporarily ease problems he himself caused. They've objected to other parts of the GOP bill that make it harder for Central American minors to gain asylum in the U.S.

The testy relationship between Trump and Pelosi, D-Calif., decayed further when she informed him he can't use the chamber for

his planned State of the Union address next Tuesday. She invited him to do so "when government has been opened."

Trump said he'd plan an event elsewhere. He called Pelosi's move "a great blotch on the country" that he said showed she didn't want "the truth" about border security. The clash suggested that a collaborative atmosphere that could facilitate a shutdown deal wasn't at hand.

Democratic leaders have insisted they won't negotiate with Trump on border security unless he reopens the government. Trump has said he'll end the shutdown only if Congress provides money for the wall, though White House officials have indicated he's open to counteroffers. □

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Pelosi denies Trump access to House for State of the Union

Continued from Front

"We'll do something in the alternative," he said, while branding Democrats "radicalized."

It was the latest round of brinkmanship between the president and Pelosi as they remain locked in an increasingly personal standoff over Trump's demand for border wall money that has forced a partial government shutdown, now in its second month.

Pelosi asked Trump last week to make other plans but stopped short of denying him the chamber for his address. She issued that denial Wednesday after Trump told her he wanted to go ahead with it — in essence, calling her bluff.

In a letter to Pelosi earlier Wednesday, Trump dismissed her previous suggestion that the speech be postponed or delivered in writing due to security issues related to the partial government shutdown. Declaring there are "no security concerns," Trump said he planned to fulfill his "Constitutional duty" to report to Congress on the state of the union.

"It would be so very sad for our Country if the State of the Union were not delivered on time, on schedule, and very importantly, on location," Trump's letter said.

But Pelosi made her decision final not long after. She told him the House "will not consider a concurrent resolution authorizing the President's State of the

Union address in the House Chamber until government has opened."

The president cannot speak in front of a joint session of Congress without both chambers' explicit permission. A resolution needs to be approved by both chambers specifying the date and time for receiving an address from the president.

White House officials have been working on a backup plan to have him give the speech somewhere else if Democrats blocked access to the House chamber.

Trump aide Kellyanne Conway said before Pelosi's letter was released that it would be "remarkably petty" for the speaker to deny Trump the location.

Each side has been accusing the other of pettiness since Pelosi raised doubts about the speech and Trump followed up by revoking her use of a military aircraft, thereby canceling a congressional delegation visit to Afghanistan.

Trump said the Homeland Security Department and the Secret Service assured him there would be "absolutely no problem regarding security" for the State of the Union and "they have since confirmed this publicly."

Officials have been considering alternative venues for the speech, including a rally-style event, an Oval Office address, a speech in the Senate chamber, and even a visit to the Mexican border. Multiple versions of the speech were being drafted to suit the final venue.

The Constitution states only that the president "shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union," meaning the president can speak anywhere he chooses or give his update in writing.

But a joint address in the House chamber, in front of lawmakers from both parties, the Supreme Court justices and invited guests, provides the kind of grand backdrop that is hard to mimic and that this president, especially, enjoys. □



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., responds to reporters after officially postponing President Donald Trump's State of the Union address until the government is fully reopened, at the Capitol in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

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Poll: Support for 'Medicare-for-all' fluctuates with details

By **RICARDO ALONSO-ZALDIVAR**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans like the idea of "Medicare-for-all," but support flips to disapproval if it would result in higher taxes or longer waits for care. That's a key insight from a national poll released Wednesday by the non-partisan Kaiser Family Foundation. It comes as Democratic presidential hopefuls embrace the idea of a government-run health care system, considered outside the mainstream of their party until Vermont independent Sen. Bernie Sanders made it the cornerstone of his 2016 campaign. President Donald Trump is opposed, saying "Medicare-for-all" would "eviscerate" the current program for seniors. The poll found that Americans initially support "Medicare-for-all," 56 percent to 42 percent.

However, those numbers shifted dramatically when people were asked about the potential impact, pro and con.

Support increased when people were told "Medicare-for-all" would guarantee health insurance as a right (71 percent) and eliminate premiums and reduce out-of-pocket costs (67 percent).

But if they were told that a government-run system could lead to delays in getting care or higher taxes, support plunged to 26 percent and 37 percent, respectively. Support fell to 32 percent if it would threaten the current Medicare program.

"The issue that will really be fundamental would be the tax issue," said Robert Blendon, a professor at the

Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health who reviewed the poll. He pointed

Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts in Amherst sug-

disapproval show that the debate over "Medicare-for-all" is in its infancy. "You

quired. Sanders' bill would forbid employers from offering coverage that duplicates benefits under the new government plan.

"Medicare-for-all" is a key issue energizing the Democratic base ahead of the 2020 presidential election, but Republicans are solidly opposed.

"Any public debate about 'Medicare-for-all' will be a divisive issue for the country at large," Brodie said.

The poll indicated widespread support for two other ideas advanced by Democrats as alternatives to a health care system fully run by the government. Majorities across the political spectrum backed allowing people ages 50-64 to buy into Medicare, as well as allowing people who don't have health insurance on the job to buy into their state's Medicaid program.

Separately, another private survey out Wednesday finds the uninsured rate among U.S. adults rose to 13.7 percent in the last three months of 2018.

The Gallup National Health and Well-Being Index found an increase of 2.8 percentage points since 2016, the year Trump was elected promising to repeal "Obamacare."

That would translate to about 7 million more uninsured adults.

Government surveys have found that the uninsured rate has remained essentially stable under Trump.

The Kaiser Health Tracking Poll was conducted Jan. 9-14 and involved random calls to the cellphones and landlines of 1,190 adults. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3 percentage points. □



In this Jan. 16, 2019, photo, Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., reacts during a hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington.

Associated Press

out that state single-payer efforts in Vermont and Colorado failed because of concerns about the tax increases needed to put them in place.

There doesn't seem to be much disagreement that a single-payer system would require tax increases, since the government would take over premiums now paid by employers and individuals as it replaces the private health insurance industry. The question is how much.

Several independent studies have estimated that government spending on health care would increase dramatically, in the range of about \$25 trillion to \$35 trillion or more over a 10-year period. But a recent estimate from the Political

gests that it could be much lower. With significant cost savings, the government would need to raise about \$1.1 trillion from new revenue sources in the first year of the new program.

House Budget Committee Chairman John Yarmuth, D-Ky., has asked the Congressional Budget Office for a comprehensive report on single-payer.

The CBO is a nonpartisan outfit that analyzes the potential cost and impact of legislation. Its estimate that millions would be made uninsured by Republican bills to repeal the Affordable Care Act was key to the survival of President Barack Obama's health care law. Mollyann Brodie, director of the Kaiser poll, said the big swings in approval and

immediately see that opinion is not set in stone on this issue," she said.

Indeed, the poll found that many people are still unaware of some of the basic implications of a national health plan.

For example, most working-age people currently covered by an employer (55 percent) said they would be able to keep their current plan under a government-run system, while 37 percent correctly answered that they would not.

There's one exception: Under a "Medicare-for-all" idea from the Center for American Progress employers and individuals would have the choice of joining the government plan, although it wouldn't be re-

Meek Mill, Jay-Z and sports owners back justice reforms

By DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A coalition of big names in sports and entertainment pledged their high-profile platforms and \$50 million on Wednesday at the launch of an organization that will lobby for changes to state probation and parole laws.

Rapper Meek Mill, whose well-publicized prison sentence for minor probation violations became a lightning rod for the issue, was joined at a New York City news conference by fellow rapper Jay-Z and the owners of the Philadelphia 76ers, Brooklyn Nets and the Super Bowl-bound New England Patriots to announce the formation of the Reform Alliance.

"I'm here to speak for all the people who don't have a voice," Mill said, who remains on probation until 2023, and actually had to get permission to attend the event to avoid getting another violation. He pointed out that his original arrest and conviction was over a decade ago. Mill became a symbol for criminal justice reform activists after a judge in Pennsylvania sentenced him to 2-4 years in prison for minor violations of his probation conditions in that decade-old gun and drug possession case. He spent months in prison before a court ordered him released, with visitors like Robert Kraft, the Patriots owner and Michael Rubin, co-owner of the 76ers.

The current system "is not good for America," Kraft said. "We can make America better if we really cure this problem."

The Reform Alliance will be led by Van Jones, a CNN host and activist who at one point served as an adviser to former President Barack Obama.

About 2.2 million people in the U.S. are incarcerated, and about 4.5 million are on probation or parole, according to government statistics.

Jones said the Reform Alliance is taking aim at the cycle of probation and

parole violations that leads people back to prison.

"That is the revolving door that keeps people back in and back in and back in," Jones said. "We're going to dismantle that revolving door." He said the efforts would be toward educating the public and legislators about how people are impacted, how minor issues like missing an appointment can have huge repercussions, in an effort to swing momentum toward legislative policy change. He said the organization's efforts would start in Pennsylvania and New York.

"For us, this is how we grew up," he said. "We're all prisoners to this, until everyone's free, no one's free." □



Entrepreneur ad recording artist Shawn "Jay-Z" Carter, from left, gestures as he poses with New England Patriots owner Robert Kraft, Philadelphia 76ers co-owner and Fanatics executive chairman Michael Rubin, recording artist Meek Mill, Galaxy Digital CEO and founder Michael Novogratz, Brooklyn Nets co-owner Clara Wu Tsai, Third Point CEO and founder Daniel S. Loeb, and REFORM Alliance CEO and political activist Van Jones after the group announced a partnership to transform the American criminal justice system, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press



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Q&A: A look at what happens when drones get near airports

By **DAVID KOENIG**
AP Airlines Writer

The ability of drones to interfere with airliners — and inconvenience their passengers — has now been demonstrated on two continents, and the problem is likely to get worse as the number of small, unmanned devices multiply. Law enforcement authorities are trying to figure out who flew a drone so high and so close to Newark Liberty International Airport that incoming flights were held up briefly during a peak hour at one of the nation's busiest airports.

Flights resumed within about 30 minutes — much more quickly than after a similar incident last month at London's Gatwick Airport. Here are some common questions readers have about these incidents and brief answers.

WHAT HAPPENED IN NEW JERSEY?

The pilots of both a Southwest Airlines flight and a United Airlines flight reported seeing a drone around 3,500 feet (1,000 meters) above Teterboro, New Jersey, about 9 miles (15 kilometers) from the Newark airport, on Tuesday. As a precaution, the Federal Aviation Administration held up 43 flights already in the air and bound for Newark; nine landed instead at other airports. Another 170 Newark-bound planes were briefly delayed on the ground before taking off from other airports around the country.

No video of the reported



In this April 29, 2018, file photo, a drone operator helps to retrieve a drone after photographing over Hart Island in New York. In this April 29, 2018, file photo, a drone operator helps to retrieve a drone after photographing over Hart Island in New York.

Associated Press

drone has surfaced.

WHO WAS OPERATING THE DRONE?

Authorities have not determined that. The FAA alerted New Jersey State Police and the FBI.

CAN WE BE SURE THERE WAS A DRONE?

Some drone operators are skeptical about a drone reported at 3,500 feet and whether pilots in a fast-moving jet could accurately identify such a tiny object.

Vic Moss, a founder of Drone U, a drone-operator school based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, said many consumer drones are restricted from going that high, although home-built devices or older drones are not. There are, however, videos online showing drones at such altitudes.

"It's possible, but it's just incredibly unlikely that it was an actual drone," Moss said. "Drones are the new

UFO."

WHAT HAPPENED IN LONDON?

In mid-December, hundreds of flights were canceled and more than 100,000 people were stranded or delayed over two days after reports of drones spotted near the runway at Gatwick Airport, a major international hub. A few days later, police arrested two men living near the airport but later cleared them, and no other suspects have been identified. Police also said that two drones found near the airport were not involved in the disruption.

A few weeks later, a reported drone sighting briefly halted flights departing from London's Heathrow Airport, one of the world's busiest.

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

If the intrusions in New Jersey and London were deliberate, the motives are

not clear. Officials in London said there was no indication that the Gatwick incident was terror-related. A criminal investigation has been opened into the Heathrow incident.

WHAT ARE THE LAWS ABOUT FLYING DRONES NEAR AIRPORTS?

Federal rules forbid operating a drone within 5 miles (8 kilometers) of most airports or above 400 feet (120 meters) without a waiver from the FAA.

ARE DRONE MANUFACTURERS RESPONSIBLE?

Devices from the biggest maker of consumer drones, DJI, include so-called geofencing — technology designed to prevent the aircraft from taking off near an airport. A drone that is launched properly but enters a no-fly zone will return to its launch site and land by itself.

Owners say DJI can take days to unlock no-fly restrictions around even small airports.

However, many drones offered for sale don't include such restrictions: They have no GPS or geofencing.

CAN OPERATORS DISABLE SAFETY SYSTEMS?

Yes. There are online discussions in which drone operators talk about hacks, but they involve some level of technological sophistication.

"The geofences (from manufacturers like DJI) are in place, but in some cases they can be defeated — it's not easy," said Tom Kil-

patrick, a drone pilot who founded a drone company in Oklahoma. "They are designed to prevent the average drone operator from flying near an airport." Home-built drones would likely not have those same safety features.

WHAT'S BEING DONE TO PREVENT DRONES FROM INTERFERING?

DJI says it has developed technology to track nearby drones — their flight path and the operator's location — using mobile, ground-based units.

The technology is currently only used to identify other DJI drones, not home-built devices, although drone experts said they believe DJI already has the ability to expand it to track machines made by other manufacturers.

WHAT ARE AIRPORTS DOING?

The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which operates the Newark airport, said in a statement that agency officials met last week with counterparts from the FAA, FBI and Homeland Security Department "to review and enhance protocols for the rapid detection and interdiction of drones." A spokesman would not provide specifics and declined to say whether the airport has any anti-drone technology. After the Gatwick incident, British officials said they have deployed drone-defense equipment at other U.K. airports, although they gave few details. □

Nurse arrested in rape of incapacitated woman who gave birth

By **TERRY TANG**
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A nurse who was supposed to be looking after an incapacitated woman at a long-term health care facility has been charged with raping her, weeks after the patient stunned her caregivers and family by giving birth to a baby boy, Phoenix police said Wednesday. Investigators arrested Nathan Sutherland, a licensed practical nurse, on suspicion of one count of sexual assault and one count of vulnerable adult abuse, Phoenix Police Chief Jeri Williams said.

The surprise birth late last month triggered reviews by state agencies, highlighted safety concerns for patients who are severely disabled or incapacitated and led to disciplinary actions and resignations of staffers and managers. It also prompted authorities to test the DNA of all the men who worked at the Hacienda HealthCare facility.

Sutherland, 36, submitted his DNA sample under court order Tuesday and the results came back a few hours later, showing he was a match to the baby. He declined to speak with police and invoked his Fifth Amendment rights, police spokesman Tommy Thompson said.

Sutherland, wearing a T-shirt, black athletic pants and jacket, appeared in court Wednesday. A Maricopa County Superior Court commissioner ordered him released on a cash-only \$500,000 bond. He also must wear an electronic monitoring device. Defense attorney David Gregan had asked for a lower bond on the grounds that Sutherland didn't have a criminal record. He described his client as a family man with young children who has lived in Arizona since 1993.

"There's no direct evidence that Mr. Sutherland

has committed these acts," Gregan said. "I know at this point there's DNA. But he will have a right to his own DNA expert."

Gregan did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

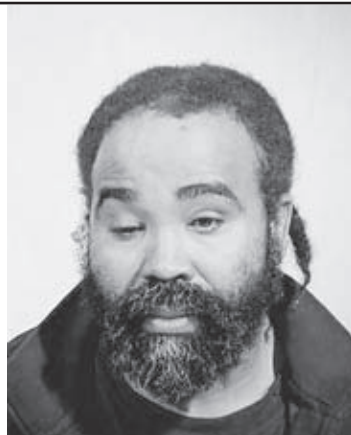
Investigators found that Sutherland had treated the victim and spent a lot of time with her, according to a probable cause statement. Investigators believe Sutherland raped the patient sometime between February and April.

A former neighbor, Esella Burr, said she lived next to Sutherland, his wife and four children for more than five years. She often saw the couple leave for church on Sundays and they would chat occasionally.

"I can't believe it," Burr said. "He told me he was nurse and he liked his job." Hacienda officials fired Sutherland after learning of his arrest. The company said it was "troubled beyond words." Sutherland had passed an extensive background check. "Once again, we offer an apology and send our deepest sympathies to the client and her family, to the community and to our agency partners at every level," Hacienda said in a statement.

The 29-year-old victim has been in long-term care since age 3 and gave birth at the facility on Dec. 29. Employees said they had no idea she was pregnant. As her guardian, the woman's mother was required to submit an annual report to the court that included results of a medical exam. The case has prompted the departure or discipline of key figures at Hacienda HealthCare, including the CEO. The provider says one doctor who had cared for the woman resigned and another had been suspended.

Earlier stories had described the patient as being comatose or in a veg-



This photo provided by Maricopa County Sheriff's Office shows Nathan Sutherland.

Associated Press

etative state. But her parents released a statement Tuesday disputing that characterization. □

White supremacist pleads guilty to NYC sword killing

By **JIM MUSTIAN**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A white supremacist pleaded guilty Wednesday to killing a black man with a sword as part of an attack that authorities said was intended to incite a race war in the United States.

James Jackson admitted to fatally stabbing 66-year-old Timothy Caughman in March 2017 after stalking a number of black men in New York City.

Jackson, who is white, told police he traveled from Baltimore to carry out the attack because New York is the media capital of the world. He said the slaying was intended to be practice for further assaults on black people.

Jackson, 30, faces life in prison without parole when he is sentenced Feb. 13 after pleading guilty to six counts, including murder and a hate crime charge. He spoke in a calm and collected manner as Judge Laura Ward questioned him in Manhattan criminal court, saying "that's true" when asked whether he was armed with a sword and two knives when he began hunting black people on the streets of Midtown.

The plea came several weeks after Ward ruled that jurors would hear Jackson's detailed confession if the case had gone to trial.

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James Jackson, right, confers with his lawyer during a hearing in criminal court, Wednesday Jan. 23, 2019 in New York.

Associated Press

Jackson's attorneys said he pleaded guilty against their advice, aware he would face a mandatory life sentence.

Caughman, who was remembered as a gentleman and a good neighbor, was alone and collecting bottles for recycling when he was attacked from behind with a sword. He staggered, bleeding, into a police station and died at a hospital. "This was more than a murder case," Vance said outside the courtroom. "This was a type of cruelty that needs to be treated with the most serious of our laws."

Jackson is from Baltimore and a veteran who served in Afghanistan. Family friends said previously that the allegations were out of line with how he was raised, in a tolerant and lib-

eral middle-class family.

In a 2017 jailhouse interview with the Daily News, Jackson said he intended the stabbing as "a practice run" in a mission to deter interracial relationships. He said he would rather have killed "a young thug" or "a successful older black man with blondes ... people you see in Midtown. These younger guys that put white girls on the wrong path."

One of Jackson's attorneys, Frederick Sosinsky, told the judge Wednesday that New York police improperly interviewed Jackson several weeks ago without notifying his defense lawyers. He said the officers who conducted the interview were not been assigned to the case and work in the intelligence division of the police department. □

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Amid wall debate, pope says fear of migration makes us crazy

By **NICOLE WINFIELD**
Associated Press

PANAMA CITY (AP) — Pope Francis said Wednesday that fear of migration is “making us crazy” as he began a trip to Central America amid a stand-off over President Donald Trump’s promised wall at the U.S.-Mexico border and a new caravan of migrants heading north.

Francis was asked by reporters about the proposed border wall Wednesday on the way to Panama, where he is looking to leave the sex abuse scandals buffeting his papacy behind. Francis responded: “It is the fear that makes us crazy.” The pontiff’s plane touched down in Panama City in the afternoon and he was met by President Juan Carlos Varela and first lady Lorena Castillo, who escorted him along a red carpet laid on the tarmac.

Spectators waved Panamanian flags in greeting and shouted, “This is the youth of the pope!” After a brief welcoming ceremony, he was driven away from the airport and did not have any more activities scheduled for the evening. Francis landed as Venezuela’s protracted political crisis flared up, with the opposition president of the country’s National Assembly declaring himself interim president and a number of regional countries including the United States recognizing him.

The Vatican had said previously that the pope would refrain from making explicit reference to Venezuela while in Panama, but the developments ensured



Pope Francis waves between Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela and first lady Lorena Castillo de Varela after landing at Tocumen international airport in Panama City, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

he would face questions about the South American nation during the trip.

The Roman Catholic Church’s first Latin American pope and the son of Italian immigrants to Argentina, Francis has made the plight of migrants and refugees a cornerstone of his papacy. He is also expected to offer words of encouragement to young people gathered in Panama for World Youth Day, the church’s once-every-three-year pep rally that aims to invigorate the next generation of Catholics in their faith.

Panama Archbishop Jose Domingo Ulloa said Francis’ message is likely to resonate with young Central Americans who see their only future free of violence and poverty in migrating to the U.S. — “young peo-

ple who often fall into the hands of drug traffickers and so many other realities that our young people face.”

The pope is expected to urge young people to create their own opportunities, while calling on governments to do their share as well.

The visit is taking place as the U.S. government remains partly shut down in a standoff between the Trump administration and Democrats over funding for Trump’s promised border wall.

Francis famously has called for “bridges, not walls.” After celebrating Mass in 2016 on the Mexican side of the U.S. border, he denounced anyone who wants to build a wall to keep out migrants as “not Christian.”

Crowds are expected to

be smaller than usual for this World Youth Day — only about 150,000 people had registered as of last week — but thousands more will certainly throng Francis’ main events, which include a vigil and a final Mass on Sunday. The Vatican conceded that the January date doesn’t suit school vacations in Europe or North America, both of which typically send huge numbers of pilgrims to World Youth Day gatherings.

Francis’ trip, the first in a year packed with foreign travel, comes at a critical moment in the papacy as the Catholic hierarchy globally is facing a crisis in credibility for covering up decades of cases of priests molesting young people.

The pope is expected to soon rule on the fate of former Cardinal Theodore

McCarrick, the high-powered U.S. archbishop accused of molesting minors and adults. And he is hosting church leaders at the Vatican next month on trying to chart a way forward for the global church.

Vatican spokesman Alessandro Gisotti said there were no plans for Francis to meet with abuse survivors in Panama.

Central America hasn’t yet seen the explosion of sex abuse cases that have shattered trust in the Catholic hierarchy in Chile, the U.S. and other parts of the world.

This is the first papal visit to Panama since St. John Paul II was there during a 1983 regional tour that famously included an unscheduled stop at the tomb of Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador. Romero had been gunned down by right-wing death squads three years earlier, at the start of El Salvador’s civil war, for having spoken out on behalf of the poor.

Salvadoran bishops had hoped Francis would follow suit and make a stop in El Salvador this time to pay his respects at Romero’s tomb since Francis canonized him in October. But the Vatican said a Salvador leg was never really in the cards.

The Panama visit is also the first by a pope since the Vatican embassy played a crucial role during the 1989 U.S. invasion of Panama, when dictator Manuel Noriega took refuge there and requested asylum on Christmas Eve after four days on the run trying to escape U.S. troops. □

At Davos, battle lines are drawn over trade and cooperation

By JAMEY KEATEN
PAUL WISEMAN

Associated Press

DAVOS, Switzerland (AP)

— World leaders in favor of international cooperation and free trade struck back Wednesday against the wave of populist nationalism that has featured more prominently than usual at the gathering of elites in Davos, Switzerland.

As a dizzying array of heads of state - from Poland to Columbia to Rwanda - addressed the political and business tycoons, the question of global cooperation emerged as a dividing line. The leaders of Japan and Germany — countries that have flourished on trade since their devastation under nationalist leaders in World War II — focused on the need for cooperation. It was a not-so-subtle dig at earlier speeches by the populist president of Brazil and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who said governments should focus more on national self-interest over international rules. "I believe that it's worth bringing together like-minded people around the world, because anything else will lead us into despair," said German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

She said efforts to combat global problems - from an economic slowdown to tensions over trade, Brexit and migration - "will only function if we are able to compromise."

She cited as a positive example a free trade deal between the European Union and Japan that will take effect Feb. 1.

Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, put a similarly strong focus on working together, noting another trade deal, among Pacific Rim countries.

He warned, however that there are risks.

"U.S.-China trade friction is one of those risks and Japan traditionally has said tit-for-tat trade-restrictive measures are of no benefit," he said in his first appearance in Davos in five years.

The U.S. and China, the



People attend the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

world's two biggest economies, are locked in a major trade dispute and have put tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars-worth of traded goods.

The administration of U.S. President Donald Trump says China is not being transparent on government subsidies it gives Chinese companies and is swiping intellectual property from Western firms.

While Abe and Merkel squarely warned against taking punitive measures like Trump has — without going through international institutions like the World Trade Organization to settle disputes — both Japan and European countries have also complained about China.

Abe said the WTO needs to be overhauled.

"Major changes are taking place and the WTO is behind the curve — it's not keeping up with pace," Abe said in a brief question-and-answer session. "We need to reform it."

Efforts were underway to defuse the U.S.-China dispute, with a high-level Chinese delegation expected to visit Washington on Jan. 30.

The level of tensions remained intense, however. China's vice president used his own speech in Davos to take shots at Trump and his administration.

"Shifting blame for one's own problems onto others will not resolve the problems," said Wang Qishan.

"What we need to do is make the pie bigger while looking for ways to share it in a more equitable way," he said. "The last thing we should do is to stop making the pie and just engage in a futile debate on how to divide it."

Trump had intended to visit Davos with a big delegation to meet with the Chinese over the trade issues. They cancelled the trip, however, due to the government shutdown. Other major leaders have also had to nix their trip, including those of Britain and France to deal with Brexit and popular protests. □

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HYATT REGENCY RESORT

Turkey's president in Moscow for Syria talks with Putin

By **VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV**
Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan sat down for Syria-focused talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Wednesday as their governments bargain over zones of influence in the war-torn country.

The leaders share strong opposition to the U.S. military presence in Syria, seeing it as an obstacle to their clout in the country. The Kremlin meeting marked their first encounter since U.S. President Donald Trump announced the pull-out in a Dec. 19 tweet.

Putin and Erdogan called each other "dear friend" while exchanging greetings at the start of the talks, hailing the close ties between their countries and their importance for regional security.

Russia and Iran have helped Syrian President Bashar Assad to win back control of most of the country, while Turkey has backed Assad's foes during the nearly eight-year conflict. Despite that, the three countries have teamed up to broker a peace deal for Syria, united by their shared



Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, left, speaks to Russian President Vladimir Putin during their talks in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

desire to undercut the U.S. clout in the region.

The agreement is now tested by Trump's abrupt decision to withdraw from Syria that has left Moscow, Ankara and Tehran jockeying for influence in the country. Russia says it expects Assad's government to take over Kurdish-held border regions east of the Euphrates River following the planned U.S. troop withdrawal from the area, while Turkey objects to the prospect.

Ankara strongly supports

the creation of a 32-kilometer (20-mile) "safe zone" in northeastern Syria to ensure that Syrian Kurdish militia — The People's Protection Units, or YPG, which Turkey considers to be a "terrorist group" for its ties to outlawed Kurdish rebels inside Turkey — is kept away from the Turkish border.

Moscow has signaled it could be open for discussions on the Turkish push for carving out the zone, but warned that it's essential that the Syrian government takes over areas currently

controlled by the U.S. and its Kurdish allies. Turkey fears any deal between the Syrian government and the YPG in the border area as well as in the strategic town of Manbij, under which the Kurdish militia would remain a threat to Turkey's security. Russia appears eager to sponsor Damascus' talks with the Kurds in the hope that it would extend the Syrian government's gains and further cement its hold on the country. The U.S. withdrawal has further bolstered Russia's role as the

top power broker in Syria. Syrian pro-government paper Al-Watan reported Tuesday that a Kurdish delegation arrived in Moscow a day before Erdogan. There was no independent confirmation yet from Kurdish officials.

At the same time, Putin appears willing to accommodate Turkish security interests in Syria, seeing strong ties with Turkey as an essential counterbalance to the U.S. clout in the region.

Turkey pointed at recent suicide bombings in Syria to argue that the Kurdish militia has proven inefficient in fighting the Islamic State group. "The sudden increase in the number of attacks on U.S. troops suggest that the YPG is either unable or unwilling to stop (IS) operations in northeastern Syria," Fahrettin Altun, the Turkish presidential communications director, wrote in an opinion piece published by the Al-Jazeera news website. Russian and Turkish interests also collide in the northwestern province of Idlib, which is packed with 3 million people, including many who were displaced from other parts of the country. □

In Congo, some party on eve of opposition taking presidency

By **SALEH MWANAMILONGO**

Associated Press

KINSHASA, Congo (AP) — Memorial caps, vibrant T-shirts, plenty of food. The surprise win by Congo opposition leader Felix Tshisekedi has breathed new life into one neighborhood of the capital, Kinshasa, as supporters celebrate ahead of his Thursday inauguration.

Few expected an opposition victory in Congo, where President Joseph Kabila has ruled since 2001 and hung on for more than two years of turbulent election delays. While some protested what declared runner-up Martin Fayulu has called a rigged vote, others are embracing peace as long as Kabila is on the



Supporters of Congolese President elect Felix Tshisekedi sell souvenirs outside his party headquarters in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Wednesday Jan. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

way out. Hundreds gathered on Wednesday outside the headquarters of the president-elect's Union for Democracy and Social Progress party. Tshisekedi's inauguration marks Congo's first peaceful, demo-

cratic transition of power since independence from Belgium in 1960.

Vendors celebrated the newfound optimism. Some sold clothes emblazoned with images of Tshisekedi and his father, ven-

erated opposition leader Etienne, who died in 2017 after pursuing the presidency for decades. Others busily dished up food.

"At home I earn 20,000 to 25,000 francs a day in profit, but here every day I earn 100,000 francs. I want to tell the new president to let us make a living here," said Denise Mbombo, who set up a makeshift restaurant. A few meters away, Samuel Kanyinda sold the flat caps made popular by Etienne Tshisekedi. "Each day I sell more than 3,000 francs. It makes me feel good," Kanyinda said.

Congo's boisterous orchestras arrive every evening to party with supporters.

Jimmy Tshimpaka said he had not returned home for five days, too eager to see

his leader's swearing-in.

"I do not see the point of going to sleep at home," he said. "I must be here to show my joy."

The gathering caused major traffic jams on Kinshasa's main Lumumba Boulevard, to the grumbles of some neighbors.

For the supporters, most of them under 30, hopes are high that Tshisekedi's installation as president will bring about badly needed change. "We have fought for a long time alongside Etienne Tshisekedi," said Jacques Mulumba. "Today his son becomes president. We want him first to take care of all the social issues for Congolese, to create jobs, as so many young people do not have work." □



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Hong Kong's legislature takes up China national anthem bill

By VIOLET LAW
Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's legislature took up a controversial bill Wednesday that would punish anyone who "publicly and intentionally insults" the Chinese national anthem with up to three years in prison, raising concerns about Beijing's growing influence in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The move came after soccer fans repeatedly booed the anthem at the start of international qualifiers, upsetting leaders of the ruling Communist Party in Beijing. The measure would also require students to sing and study the song as part of their curriculum.

Ever since Beijing suppressed the pro-democracy movement in the semi-autonomous city in late 2014, heckling China's na-



Pro-Beijing protesters raise the Chinese National flag and the Hong Kong flag during a protest outside Legislative building in Hong Kong, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

tional anthem has emerged as a form of protest. The bill, which also includes a maximum fine of \$50,000 Hong Kong (US\$6,410), will be up for passage this summer. A former British colony, Hong Kong was handed over to Chinese rule in 1997

but continues to enjoy civil liberties such as freedom of the press that are denied in China.

The "one country, two systems" framework is supposed to last for 50 years but has been significantly eroded under authoritarian

Chinese leader Xi Jinping, critics say.

"We're worried that by passing the bill, people's right and liberty to express themselves in terms of political ideology will be restricted," said Alvin Yeung, a lawmaker in Hong Kong's Legislative Council, known as LegCo.

Pro-Beijing legislator Holden Chow disagreed, saying the bill was merely about upholding the sanctity of national symbols.

"We are simply deterring people from showing disrespect to the national anthem," Chow said.

Before LegCo went into the morning session, student pro-democracy activist Joshua Wong and several others staged a flash demonstration by mounting a black protest banner right under China's national five-star emblem at Hong

Kong's government headquarters. Emblazoned with the slogan "Freedom not to sing praises," the banner was swiftly removed by security and no arrests were reported.

In 2017, Beijing enacted a national anthem law and entered it as an amendment to Hong Kong's constitution. The anthem, "March of the Volunteers," begins with a call for defiance: "Rise up, you people who refuse to be subjugated."

The bill is virtually assured of passage since the legislators who tend to side with Beijing outnumber the pro-democracy camp.

But the law wades into untested waters since it represents Beijing's first effort at requiring Hong Kong to pass a mainland Chinese law, a potential breach of "one country, two systems." □

Seoul accuses Japanese patrol plane of threatening flight

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's military accused Japan of a "clear provocation" over what it said was a threatening low-altitude flight by a Japanese patrol plane over a South Korean warship on Wednesday.

Seoul's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the plane flew 60 to 70 meters (196 to 229 feet) above the water near a South Korean naval ship in seas southwest of the Korean Peninsula.

Japanese Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya denied the allegation, saying the aircraft flew more than twice as high as South Korea claimed. Japan Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said it was "es-



People watch a TV screen showing file footage of a Japanese patrol plane during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

sential that the Japanese and South Korean defense authorities try to communicate and promote better understanding."

Seoul and Tokyo are key U.S. allies and close economic partners, but are

currently locked in disputes over military issues and war-time history.

The announcement comes after a weeklong spat between the countries' militaries over Japanese allegations that a South

Korean warship locked its fire-control radar on a Japanese patrol plane in December. South Korea's military denied the allegation

and accused the plane of flying low over the warship, which was engaged in a rescue operation of a North Korean fishing boat. □

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Maduro foe claims Venezuela presidency amid protests

By JOSHUA GOODMAN

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Venezuela's crisis quickly escalated on Wednesday, as an opposition leader backed by the Trump administration declared himself interim president in a direct challenge to embattled socialist Nicolas Maduro, who retaliated by breaking off relations with the United States, his biggest trade partner.

For the past two weeks, ever since Maduro took the oath for a second six-year term in the face of widespread international condemnation, the newly-energized opposition had been preparing for nationwide demonstrations Wednesday coinciding with the anniversary marking the end of Venezuela's last military dictatorship in 1958.

While Maduro has shown no signs of leaving, his main rival, National Assembly President Juan Guaido, upped the ante by declaring himself interim president before masses of anti-government demonstrators — the only way, he said, to rescue Venezuela from "dictatorship."

In a seemingly-coordinated action, the U.S. led a chorus of Western hemisphere nations, including Canada, Brazil, Argentina and Colombia, that immediately backed the bold challenge, with President Donald Trump calling on Maduro to resign and promising to use the "full weight" of the U.S. economic and diplomatic power to push for the restoration of Venezuela's democracy.

"The people of Venezuela have courageously spoken out against Maduro and his regime and demanded freedom and the rule of law," Trump said in a statement.

The stunning move, which to some harkened back to dark episodes of heavy-handed U.S. interventions in Latin America during the Cold War, drew a strong rebuke from Maduro. He responded by swiftly cutting off diplomatic relations with



Juan Guaido, head of Venezuela's opposition-run congress, declares himself interim president of the nation until elections can be held during a rally demanding President Nicolas Maduro's resignation in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

the United States, the biggest importer of the OPEC nation's oil, giving American diplomats 72 hours to leave the country.

"Before the people and nations of the world, and as constitutional president. ... I've decided to break diplomatic and political relations with the imperialist U.S. government," Maduro thundered while holding up a decree banning the diplomats before a crowd of red-shirted supporters gathered at the presidential palace. "Don't trust the gringos. They don't have friends or loyalties. They only have interests, guts and the ambition to take Venezuela's oil, gas and gold."

Not to be undone, Guaido issued his own statement, urging foreign embassies to disavow Maduro's orders and keep their diplomats in the country.

The 35-year-old Guaido, a virtually unknown lawmaker at the start of the year, has reignited the hopes of Venezuela's often beleaguered opposition by taking a rebellious tack amid a crushing economic crisis that has forced millions to flee or go hungry.

Raising his right hand in unison with tens of thousands of supporters, the leader of the opposition-controlled

congress took a symbolic oath to assume executive powers he says are his right under two articles of Venezuela constitution to take over as interim president and form a transitional government until he calls new elections.

"Today, January 23, 2019, I swear to formally assume the powers of the national executive as president in charge of Venezuela," he told the cheering crowd as he stood behind a lectern emblazoned with Venezuela's national coat of arms, "We know that this will have consequences," he shouted, moments before quickly slipping away to an unknown location amid speculation he would soon be arrested.

The price of oil slipped for the third time in four days Wednesday, an indication that international energy markets are not overly concerned yet that the situation in Venezuela — America's third top oil supplier and owner of Houston-based Citgo — will disrupt global crude supplies.

The bold challenge to Maduro's rule came after large crowds gathered in Caracas waving flags and chanting "Get out Maduro!" in what was the largest demonstration since a wave of unrest that left

more than 120 dead in 2017. While the protests were mostly peaceful there were no signs that security forces heeded Guaido's call to join the anti-Maduro movement and go light on demonstrators.

Hours after most demonstrators went home violence broke out in Altamira, an upscale zone of Caracas and an opposition stronghold, when National Guardsmen descended on hundreds of youths, some of them with their faces covered, lingering around a popular plaza. Popping tear gas canisters sent hundreds running and hordes of protesters riding two and three on motorcycles fleeing in panic.

Blocks away, a small group knocked a pair of guardsman riding tandem off their motorcycle, pelting them with coconuts as they sped down a wide avenue. Some in the group struck the two guardsmen with their hands while others ran off with their gear and set their motorcycle on fire.

Amid the showdown, all eyes were on the military, the traditional arbiter of political disputes in Venezuela — and to whom Guaido has been targeting his message.

Maduro, who lacks the military pedigree of his mentor

and predecessor, the late Hugo Chavez, has sought to shore up support from the armed forces by doling out key posts to top generals, including heading the PDVSA oil monopoly that is the source of virtually all of Venezuela's export earnings. He has also been playing commander in chief, appearing last week at a military command meeting wearing camouflage fatigues and receiving the blessing of the defense minister, Gen. Vladimir Padrino Lopez.

But beyond the public displays of loyalty from the top brass, a number of cracks have started to appear.

On Monday, Venezuelans awoke to news that a few dozen national guardsmen had taken captive a loyalist officer and seized a stockpile of assault rifles in a pre-dawn raid. The government quickly quelled the uprising, but residents in a nearby slum took to the streets to show their support for the mutineers by burning cars and throwing stones at security forces, who fired back with tear gas.

Retired Maj. Gen. Cliver Alcala, a one-time aide to Chavez and now in exile, said the opposition's newfound momentum has reverberated with the military's lower ranks, many of whom are suffering the same hardships as regular Venezuelan families.

"I am absolutely certain that right now, especially younger troops are asking themselves whether Maduro is their commander in chief or a usurper," Alcala said.

Though intimidation has worked for the government in the past, it may not this time, said Dimitris Pantoulas, a Caracas-based political analyst. Discontent now appears to be more widespread and the ranks of security forces and government-allied groups have been thinned by the mass exodus of mostly young Venezuelans, he said.

"The government is resorting to its old tricks, but the people no longer believe them," Pantoulas said. □

LOCAL



Celebrate our Dia di Betico with Us!

ORANJESTAD - Tomorrow, Friday January 25th, the island will have lots of festivities that honor the late pro-autonomy political leader Gilberto Francois (Betico) Croes. He helped the island attain the Status Aparte. Croes sadly lapsed into a coma after an accident on 31 December 1985 (the night of Status Aparte) and was never conscious to see his accomplishment. He is called the father of the Aruban nation. Aruba was allowed to function as a commonwealth within the Dutch Kingdom and Betico is honored for this outcome since 1989 by celebrating the Dia di Betico. The official holiday features performances, sporting events and games throughout the island. Aruba Today presents a selection of the events that take place on this festive day.

Official Ceremony & Cultural Manifestation

The protocol program for the honoring of Betico Croes is a nice event to go to. The governor of Aruba as well as the government with spouses will be present in their attire dress code. This will take place at the Plaza Libertador Betico Croes on Vondellaan at 9 AM. End of the afternoon you can enjoy the cultural manifestation, performed by several local artists. This will be between 6:30 PM and 11:30 PM, same location. Drinks and food are provided by the different stalls and there will be a kid's corner for the little ones.

City Walk

Foundation Rancho organizes a very nice walking tour that will give



you a good idea of Oranjestad. The tour takes 2 hours and focuses primarily on the city center with the neighborhood Rancho as heart of it. The first tour starts at 9 AM, the second at 11 AM, both with the starting point Centro di Actividad Rancho, Koningstraat 38. More information on Facebook: Stichting Rancho.

Musea

The Historical Museum (Fort Zoutman at Oranjestad), the Museum of Industry (San Nicolas) the Community Museum (San Nicolas) and also Carnival Euphoria Exhibition (San Nicolas) open their doors at this special day between 10 AM to 6 PM.

An assortment of drinks, snacks and more will take care of your inner needs while you enjoy some of our local culture. Performances by local artists and artisans are on the program. The Facebook page Fun-

dacion Museo Arubano will give you more information.

Sports

Play some Chess

The Aruban Chess Federation will organize a Chess Tournament in the light of Betico Croes day. Three categories can participate: Children below 12 years old, children below 18 years old and an open category with all ages free to participate. The first category only plays on Saturday, the second day of the tournament. The tournament starts at 9 in the morning and will end approximately at 2 PM. There will be prizes to win, please step by. More information on Facebook Aruba Chess Federation.

Horse Riding Competition

The complete weekend you will have the opportunity to visit a local ranch and admire some horse rid-

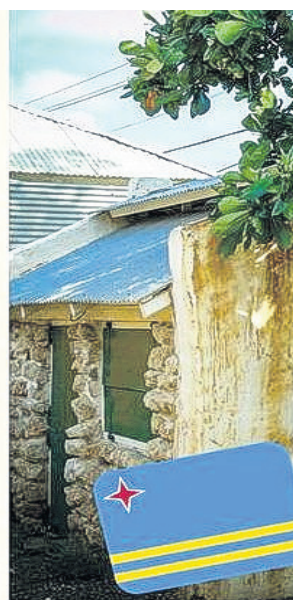


ing competitions. At Rancho Bello Amanecer the amazons of Aruba and Curacao will surprise you with their elegance riding on these beautiful and gracious animals. Please check out their Facebook page: Org. Caballista Arubano.

Run for Betico

The famous Betico Croes Memorial race is a walk or run that is great for participants as well as for spectators. You may choose between walking or running 6 or running 10 kilometers in the beautiful landscape of St. Cruz and surroundings. The start point is at the Centro Deportivo Libertador Betico Croes (St. Cruz) at 6:00 AM. Take Note: 10K it's only for runners.

All participants MUST pre-register online AND pay at IBISA to become a participant of the event. Pre-registration online alone will not secure your spot. More information: Facebook IBISA Aruba. □





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Creative Islander

By Thaïs G. Franken

Where culture, creativity and diversity lives, inclusion shall prevail!

Maastricht – In the spirit of cultural celebration and expression on the island, this past weekend a remarkable moment in history took place in the Carnival Harbor Arena. The first special needs Youth Queen was crowned in celebration of Aruba's 65th carnival anniversary. Besides winning the ultimate title during the Youth Queen election, Ilaijah Croes represented courage and the beauty of inclusion in cultural activities on the island. Next to economic and cultural developments of Cultural and Creative Industries (CCIs), there is a tremendous contribution of CCIs on social progress and vigorous developments where people are the central attention. Societies should not only focus to thrive financially or economically, but should also take into account the social well-being of its people.

Inclusion and the Sustainable Development Goals

In previous columns, I elaborated on the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) the United Nations has proposed, so that all member countries can work together in creating more sustainable cities, communities and families. Seemingly, Aruba has also committed herself to implementation of these goals which focus on areas such as; poverty, education, health care, gender equality, reduced inequalities, economic growth, climate change, life on land and below water, justice and so much more. Specifically, on inclusion the SDGs propose different targets in making sure countries become more inclusive in economic, political, social and cultural spectrums. The idea is to "by 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin,



The crowning of Aruba's 65th Youth Queen by the Minister of Culture

religion or economic or other status" (UN, 2018).

Culture and Social Cohesion

While the role of culture in promoting community cohesion and well-being has been fully recognized by diverse academics and professionals in these fields, the narrative is equally important, thus, how the community enables or constrains the creative economy. The relation between a community and its culture extends to concerns social harmony, which is imperative for healthy development. In an age in which societies like Aruba tend to become even more multi-cultural, identities and ways of life confront one another. In the multi-cultural society, culture can be a lever that stimulates pride, personal development, and self-fulfillment for minorities, and at the same time it can be a common language, a bridge

between different groups (Borg van der & Russo, 2005). Talking about different groups relates to the statement of the SDGs. Groups of people irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status.

On Aruba, this development is slowly transforming itself. More diversity, more participation and exposure of "difference". Social inclusion, besides having a social emphasis on development also triggers economic spectrums that are equally important. Inclusion of more women, migrants, disabled people in Aruba's economy and cultural platform should also be a goal to achieve.



Aruba's 65th Youth Queen enjoying herself after presenting her touching speech

Continued on Page 15

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Where culture, creativity and diversity lives, inclusion shall prevail!

Continued from Page 14

Initiatives such as Trampolin pa Trabou have paved ways how Aruba can create programs where special needs women and men receive the opportunity to be creative and share their talent with the people on the island. So, now seeing Ilaijah being crowned in front of the island is an inspiration for all young boys and girls that face personal challenges to not only dream, but to participate in cultural activities. However, it is also a lesson for Aruba that inclusion means, that there should be more support and less discrimination. The reaction of the Aruban society was sincerely moving and I am happy to see this progress.

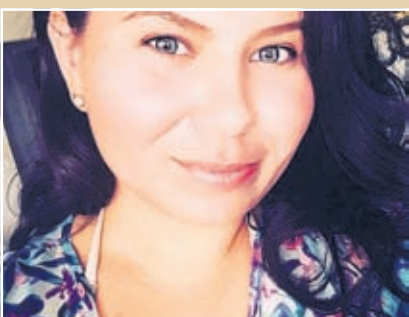
By all means, culture enables citizen participation, community empowerment, and social cohesion as it promotes well-liked processes that

build recognition and connections within communities. Cultural programs can accelerate the rootedness of newcomers including new migrants and those who have been casted out of the society. Local cultural activities and expressions can provide knowledge, awareness, and can foster processes that also relate inhabitants to the past, the present, and the future (Duxbury, Hosaghahar, & Pascual, 2016). Social cohesion is simply one aspect of the entire social agenda of a country. In the same way, Cultural and Creative Industries can serve as the leading economy that will encourage tolerance of diversity, openness and respect for all contribute to avoid tension and to promote social harmony and cohesion, especially in multicultural countries such as Aruba.

For Aruba, this is critical due to its multi-dimensional complexity of nationalities and migration.

Just like culture and art are both key resources for dealing with Europe's social challenges, this could be the case for Aruba (European Commission, 2015). Social challenges that include social mobility, promoting new skills for jobs, fulfilling better employment and careers, fostering healthier and longer lives, combating poverty and social exclusion, and lastly, taking gender equality and equal opportunities further. Creative Islander would like to congratulate Ilaijah Croes for her tremendous and beautiful performance. Thank you for being brave, being yourself and for showing Aruba, that inclusion is the future.

Your touching speech to the community of Aruba reached the hearts of many. This is a milestone for Aruba, and will only enable more inclusion in all cultural and economic platforms on the island. Where culture, creativity and diversity lives, inclusion shall prevail! □



Biography – Currently, Thaïs Franken is a 22-year-old Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She is studying a Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA). She successfully graduated and defended her thesis titled "Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development" on July 6th 2018. Thaïs is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture and creativity. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.



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Irwin J. Perret-Gentil, Chairman and CEO Pering Group

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The infinity pool in construction



The view from level 7



Harbour House final design



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Harbour Buzz

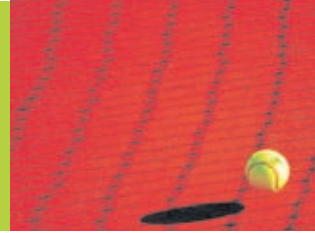
The ground floor will be a lively area attractive to both locals and visitors. There will be a pedestrian boulevard flanked by nice restaurants, good stores, ateliers for local artists, jewelry sellers and of course a minimarket. "Imagine that all is right at your doorstep and if that is not enough the marina with its restaurants, cinema, city center with its stores and dining locations and the only convention center in Aruba are all within walking distance. The best beaches are just minutes away", says Marinelda.

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For more information: <https://harbourhousearuba.com>

SPORTS



Tiger Woods watches his tee shot on the fourth hole during the pro-am round of the Farmer's Insurance Open golf tournament on the North Course at Torrey Pines Golf Course on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, in San Diego, Calif.

Associated Press

Tiger returns to Torrey to face strong field, strong course

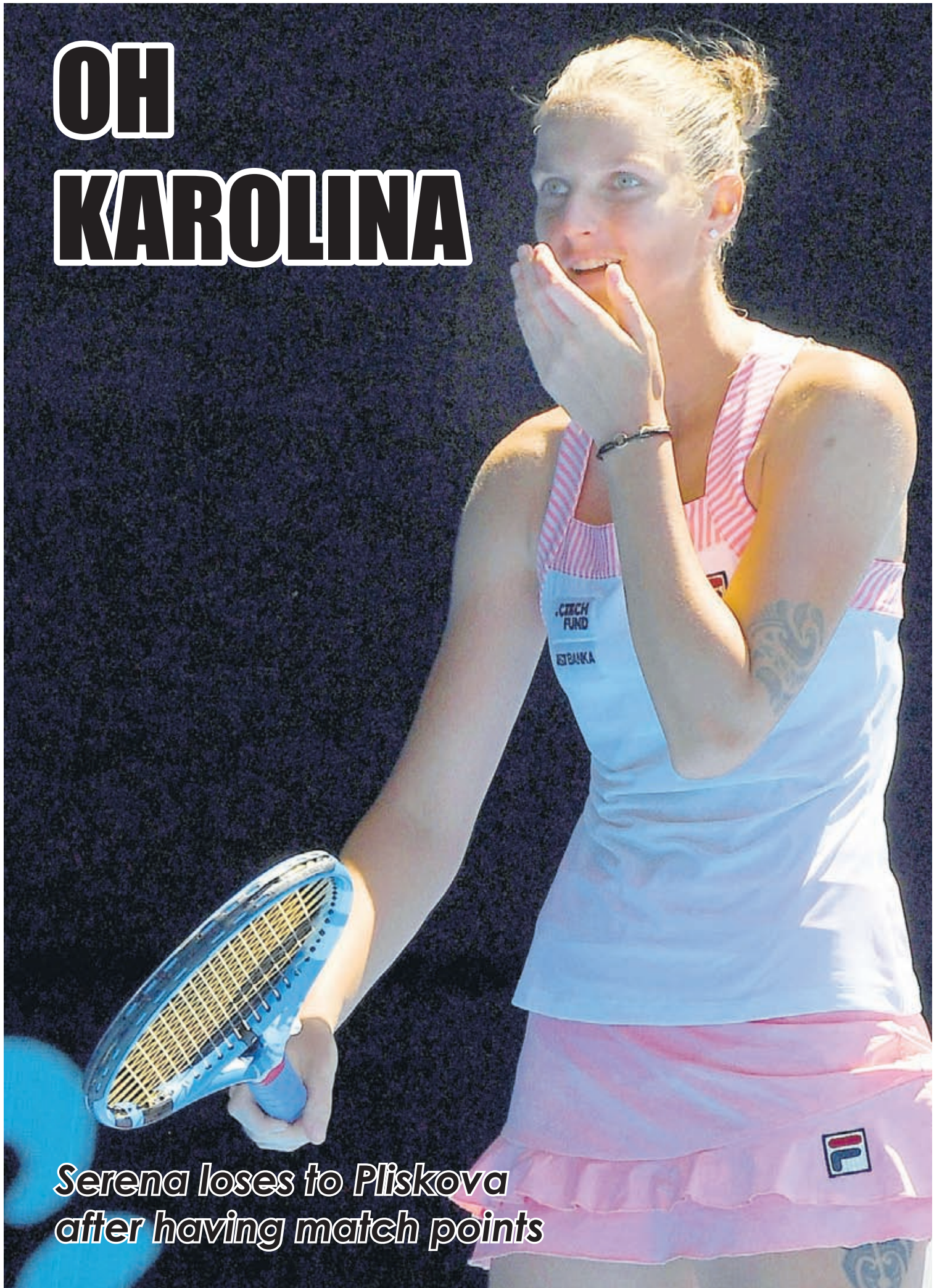
By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rory McIlroy had a week to remember his first trip to San Diego. He carried Northern Ireland's flag during the opening ceremony of the Junior World Championship and later had a picture taken at Torrey Pines with a certain Mr. Woods. That was 20 years ago. And it was Earl Woods, the father of Tiger.

"Tiger was probably off winning majors," McIlroy said with a laugh on the eve of his debut in the Farmers Insurance Open. McIlroy saw enough of the South Course — 10 holes on Monday, the pro-am Wednesday — to appreciate why this public course along the Pacific bluffs has been known for years as Woods' personal playground.

Continued on Page 23

OH KAROLINA



Serena loses to Pliskova after having match points

Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic reacts after defeating United States' Serena Williams in their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

Associated Press
Page 19

Vonn 'hopeful' she can ski again despite ailing knees

By **ANDREW DAMPF**
AP Sports Writer

Lindsey Vonn isn't quite done yet.

The most successful female skier in World Cup history said Wednesday that she remains "hopeful" she can fix her ailing knees and race again. She just doesn't know when — or if — that will be possible.

"I'm taking things day by day and we will see what happens," Vonn wrote on Instagram. "I know that I might not get the ending to my career that I had hoped for, but if there is a chance, I will take it."

The announcement came three days after Vonn hinted at immediate retirement after failing to finish a super-G in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, citing severe pain in both of her knees.

Vonn said the reason she had "so much pain and muscle shut down in Cortina was due to an impact injury to my peroneal nerve."

"This most likely came from the final jump on the first training run in Cortina, but it's hard to know for sure," Vonn added. "After that training run, the pain got progressively worse each day and by Sunday my lower leg was in a lot of pain and my muscles had completely shut down."

Vonn, who hadn't raced



United States' Lindsey Vonn speeds down the course during an alpine ski, women's World Cup super-G in Cortina D'Ampezzo, Italy, Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019.

all season because of a left knee injury, finished no better than ninth in three races in Cortina.

"Now that we know the problem the next issue is fixing it," Vonn said. "So far we haven't found a solution and as a result I will not be able to compete in tomorrow's downhill training run."

Downhill training in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, is scheduled for Thursday and Friday, followed by downhill and super-G races this weekend.

Vonn needs to start at least one training run to race the

downhill, per International Ski Federation rules. She can enter the super-G without any training runs.

"Since this is a new 'injury' per say, I remain hopeful that we can fix it," she said. Vonn has 82 wins — most among women — and four less than overall record-holder Ingemar Stenmark of Sweden.

After Garmisch, her next scheduled competition is the world championships in Are, Sweden, which open on Feb. 5.

Vonn had been planning to retire in December following races in Lake Lou-

ise, Alberta, where she has won a record 18 times.

If she is able to race again this week, Vonn's skis are waiting for her.

"I have just arrived in Garmisch and set up my ski room," Heinz Haemmerle, Vonn's longtime ski technician, told The Associated Press. "The skis are ready whatever she's deciding. That's why I am here. Otherwise I could stay at home." Rainer Salzgeber, the racing director for Head skis, added that the company is preparing as if Vonn will race in Garmisch and then the worlds.

"For Heinz right now it looks like this," Salzgeber told the AP. "But how it will end up in the next couple of days or hours I do not know."

Vonn had returned to action in Cortina following an injury to her left knee — she hyperextended it and sprained a ligament while training in November. Also, her right knee is permanently damaged from previous crashes.

"I've had four surgeries on my right knee. I've got no LCL (lateral collateral ligament) on my left knee. I've got two braces on. There's only so much I can handle and I might have reached my maximum," Vonn said Sunday.

Patrick Riml, Vonn's coach with the U.S. Ski Team for much of her career and now a representative with Red Bull, one of Vonn's main sponsors, said the decision will come down to how her body feels.

"Obviously there's some issues and some limitations if she can't put pressure on the leg like she wasn't able to in Cortina," Riml said.

"We all want to see her competing and doing a good job," Riml added, noting that the pain may have become too much to endure. "That's for every athlete. If mother nature makes that call it's never fun." □

50 years past last men's Slam, Laver says it'll happen again



Rod Laver addresses a press conference at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

Associated Press

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**
AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Fifty years after Rod Laver won the last true Grand Slam in men's tennis, he is fairly confident the feat will be replicated one day, unlikely as it may seem.

While Steffi Graf won all four major tennis tournaments in one season in 1988, no man has done it other than Don Budge in 1938 and Laver in 1962 and 1969. Serena Williams and Novak Djokovic each managed to collect four major trophies in a row but spread out over two seasons.

Laver's first calendar-year

Grand Slam came during the amateur era. He then turned pro — "I said: 'I can't afford to stay this way. I haven't made anything out of the game,'" Laver explained — and so was barred from entering the majors until the Open era began at Roland Garros in 1968.

The following year was the debut of professional tennis at the Australian Open, and he was eager to compete again.

"You don't say, 'I'm going to win the Grand Slam.' It's a nine-month title," said Laver, who turned 80 last year. "I told my wife, 'I want to

enter all four of them.' And she says: 'Well, go ahead. It's your life with tennis.' And so I arrived down here, and she called me up and said she was pregnant. The due date was the exact date of the U.S. Open final."

He wound up winning the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and U.S. Open — and his son was born three weeks late, so there was no conflict in New York.

Completing the second Slam, against professionals, "gave me the satisfaction ... that I could do it with all the players at the tournament," Laver said. □



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1 point away, Serena stunned by Pliskova at Australian Open

By **HOWARD FENDRICH**

AP Tennis Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— Four times, Serena Williams was only one point — a single point — from closing out a victory in the Australian Open quarterfinals. On the first such chance, at 5-1, 40-30 in the third set, she turned her left ankle awkwardly. The owner of the best serve in the sport would lose every point she served the rest of the way. And so it was that a startling reversal and result would follow Wednesday at Melbourne Park, with Williams dropping the last six games of a 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 loss to No. 7-seeded Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic.

"I can't say that I choked on those match points," Williams said. "She literally played her best tennis ever on those shots."

The 37-year-old American didn't call for a trainer during the match and later wouldn't blame the ankle for the way everything changed down the stretch, saying afterward that it "seems to be fine."

But instead of Williams moving closer to an eighth championship at the Australian Open and record-tying 24th Grand Slam title overall, it is Pliskova who will continue the pursuit of her first major trophy.

"I was almost in the locker room," Pliskova told the Rod Laver Arena crowd, "but now I'm standing here as the winner."

Normally, Williams is the one manufacturing a comeback. This time, it was surprising to see her let a

sizable lead vanish. Only twice before in 380 Grand Slam matches had Williams lost after holding a match point, at the 2010 French Open and 1999 Australian Open.

In Thursday's semifinals, Pliskova will face No. 4-seeded Naomi Osaka, who advanced by beating No. 6 Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-1. The other women's semifinal will be two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova against unseeded American Danielle Collins.

In men's action Wednesday, No. 28 Lucas Pouille of France reached his first Grand Slam semifinal by beating 2016 Wimbledon runner-up Milos Raonic of Canada 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-4. Pouille, who is coached by two-time major champion Amelie Mauresmo, had been 0-5 for his career at the Australian Open until last week. His next opponent will be 14-time major champion Novak Djokovic, who moved on when 2014 U.S. Open finalist Kei Nishikori stopped playing while trailing 6-1, 4-1.

Nishikori was treated for leg problems by a trainer.

Williams' surprising departure scuttled what would have been a much-anticipated rematch against Osaka, who beat her in the chaotic U.S. Open final last September.

This defeat is the earliest in Australia for Williams since 2014, when she exited with a fourth-round loss to Ana Ivanovic. Since then? She won the tournament in 2015, lost in the final in 2016, and won again in 2017



United States' Serena Williams reacts after losing a point to Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

while pregnant, before missing last year's edition a few months after the birth of her daughter.

As for chasing Margaret Court's all-time mark of 24 Slam trophies in singles, Williams said: "It hasn't happened yet, but I feel like it's going to happen."

The match against Pliskova was played under a stifling sun, with the temperature around 80 degrees (25 degrees Celsius). Williams — coming off an intense three-set victory over No. 1 Simona Halep in the fourth round — often stepped into the patches of shade behind each baseline.

She did not start well, not well at all. Her mistakes were mounting and deficit was growing.

In the first set alone, Williams

made more than twice as many unforced errors as her opponent, 11-5, a pattern that would continue throughout. By the end, the margin was 37-15.

Looking increasingly frustrated, Williams would yell at herself after mistakes or gesture as if to say, "That's NOT how I should be hitting the ball!" Add it all up, and Pliskova led by a set and a break at 3-2 in the second. Only then did Williams get going. From there, she immediately earned her first break point of the match and converted it to get to 3-all, beginning a run in which she claimed nine of 11 games.

"You don't really feel," Pliskova said, "like you're going to win this match."

Serving for the victory at

5-1, 40-30, Williams was called for a foot fault — reminiscent of an infamous such ruling at the U.S. Open a decade ago. During the ensuing point Wednesday, Williams twisted her left ankle and dumped a forehand into the net.

She grabbed at her foot afterward, then double-faulted and would go on to cede that game.

Not a big deal, right? She still had a sizable lead.

Except that three more match points would follow while Pliskova served, and she saved each one.

"There's nothing I did wrong on those match points. I didn't do anything wrong. I stayed aggressive," Williams said. "She just literally hit the lines on some of them." □

Associated Press

Hat tricks for Hertl, Ovechkin as Sharks beat Caps 7-6 in OT

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tomas Hertl completed his hat trick by scoring in overtime, and the San Jose Sharks withstood Alex Ovechkin's three goals to beat the Washington Capitals 7-6 on Tuesday night and hand the defending Stanley Cup champions their sixth consecutive defeat.

Hertl scored 2:48 into the 3-on-3 session, and a handful of hats were tossed onto the ice. Many more cascaded down earlier after Ovechkin's third hat trick this season and 23rd of his career, but that came in a losing effort because of Evander Kane's dramatic goal that helped the Sharks end their three-game skid.

With goaltender Martin Jones pulled for an extra attacker, Kane beat Braden Holtby with a second left in regulation for his second of the night. Holtby allowed seven goals on 43 shots in what was not one of the All-Star goalie's finest performances.

Joe Pavelski and Logan Couture also scored for San Jose, which has allowed six goals in each of its past four games. T.J. Oshie, Andre Burakovsky and Evgeny Kuznetsov also scored for Washington, which has lost six in a row for the first time since the 2013-14 season.

BLACKHAWKS 3, ISLANDERS



Washington Capitals goaltender Braden Holtby looks back at the game winning goal that San Jose Sharks center Tomas Hertl, from the Czech Republic, shot for a hat trick in the overtime portion of an NHL hockey game, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019, in Washington. The Sharks won 7-6.

Associated Press

2, SO

CHICAGO (AP) — Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane scored in the shootout as Chicago halted New York's five-game winning streak. Toews scored on a backhand and Kane beat Robin Lehner between the pads after nearly pulling to a stop. Cam Ward stopped Josh Bailey and Mathew Barzal to give the Blackhawks their second straight victory following a five-game slide.

Toews and Dylan Strome scored power-play goals in regulation for Chicago.

Strome connected during a 5-on-3 advantage in the second period to end the Islanders' shutout streak at 158 minutes, 58 seconds. Valtteri Filppula and Barzal scored in regulation for the Metropolitan Division leaders, who lost for just the third time in 15 games.

Ward stopped 34 shots through overtime. Lehner made 38 saves for the Islanders, who came into the game off two straight shutouts.

Chicago's Alex DeBrincat had two assists and Kane had one to extend his point

streak to nine games.

FLAMES 3, HURRICANES 2, OT

CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Mikael Backlund scored 15 seconds into overtime to give Calgary a victory over Carolina.

Calgary (33-13-5) heads into the All-Star break as the No. 1 team in the Western Conference, six points up on San Jose.

Oliver Kylington and Mark Jankowski also scored for the Flames, who finished 9-1-1 in January. David Rittich made 33 saves to improve to 8-0-2 in his last 10

starts.

Sebastian Aho tied it for Carolina with 44 seconds left in regulation. Dougie Hamilton also scored for the Hurricanes, and Peter Mrazek stopped 22 shots.

It was the first game between the teams since Bill Peters resigned as coach of the Hurricanes after four seasons and was hired by the Flames in April 2018.

RED WINGS 3, OILERS 2

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Luke Glendening scored twice and Detroit headed into the All-Star break with a win over Edmonton.

Dylan Larkin had a goal for the Red Wings, who snapped their two-game skid. Jimmy Howard made 32 saves.

Leon Draisaitl and Matt Benning scored for the Oilers, who have lost three in a row.

COYOTES 3, SENATORS 2

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Vinnie Hinostroza scored twice and added an assist to lead Arizona over Ottawa.

Derek Stepan also scored for the Coyotes, who are 6-1-1 in their past eight games. Darcy Kuemper stopped 25 shots.

Bobby Ryan and Ryan Dzingel had the goals for the Senators. Craig Anderson, making his second start after missing 12 games with a concussion, finished with 30 saves. □

Struggling Edmonton Oilers fire GM Peter Chiarelli



In this Nov. 4, 2015, file photo, Edmonton Oilers general manager Peter Chiarelli gives an update on injured Oilers hockey player Connor McDavid in Edmonton, Alberta.

Associated Press

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**
AP Hockey Writer

Edmonton fired Peter Chiarelli on Wednesday in an indictment of his roster moves in three-plus years as general manager, with the Oilers in striking distance of a playoff spot during another losing season.

The team announced Chiarelli's abrupt dismissal in the aftermath of its third consecutive loss. Edmonton has lost 12 of its past 16 games going into the All-Star Break. The Oilers are 14-14-2 since firing coach Todd McLellan and replacing him with Ken Hitchcock. CEO Bob Nicholson will

oversee hockey operations and the search for Chiarelli's replacement. Nicholson said at a news conference in Edmonton that Keith Gretzky will assume GM responsibilities for the time being, including the point role ahead of the Feb. 25 trade deadline.

Nicholson said the Oilers, who are three points out of the final playoff spot in the Western Conference, still believe they can make the playoffs but won't sacrifice the future to try to make quick fixes. He said the organizational decision was made this week to fire Chiarelli, who was told at the

second intermission of a loss Tuesday night to Detroit so he could quietly leave the arena.

Nothing else about Chiarelli's tenure in Edmonton was quiet. He was hired in 2015 after the Oilers won the draft lottery and selected star Connor McDavid. He was heralded as the right executive to get the Oilers back to respectability.

They've made the playoffs just once in McDavid's three seasons despite him putting up 329 points in 258 games, leading the league in scoring twice and winning the Hart Trophy as NHL MVP. □

George, Westbrook lead Thunder past Trail Blazers 123-114

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Paul George had 36 points and eight rebounds, Russell Westbrook had a triple-double of 29 points, 14 assists and 10 rebounds and the Oklahoma City Thunder beat the Portland Trail Blazers 123-114 on Tuesday night.

Steven Adams and Terrance Ferguson each added 14 points for Oklahoma City, which snapped a three-game losing streak to Portland at Chesapeake Energy Arena. After a stretch of losing five of six games, the Thunder have won three straight and moved back into third place in the fluid Western Conference standings.

Damian Lillard had 34 points and eight assists, and C.J. McCollum scored 31 for Portland, which had a three-game winning streak snapped. Jusuf Nurkic had 22 points and 15 rebounds. Except for McCollum, who went 7 of 12 from 3-point range, the Trail Blazers struggled from behind the arc, going 10 for 36. Oklahoma City hit 11 of 23 3-point attempts.

RAPTORS 120, KINGS 105

TORONTO (AP) — Kyle Lowry and Fred VanVleet each scored 19 points, Pascal Siakam had 18 and Toronto beat Sacramento.

Serge Ibaka had 15 points and 10 rebounds as the Raptors extended their home winning streak to 10 games. Toronto's franchise record for consecutive home wins is 12.

C.J. Miles scored a season-high 15 points and Norm Powell added 11 as Toronto overcame the absence of Kawhi Leonard (rest) to win for the eighth time in nine games.

Leonard missed his third straight game for rest and will also skip Wednesday's game at Indiana. He is expected to return Friday at Houston.

Kings rookie Marvin Bagley scored a career-high 22 points and added 11 rebounds in his first career start. Bogdan Bogdanovic scored 16 points and Brady Hield had 15 as Sacramento lost for the third time in four games.

TIMBERWOLVES 118, SUNS 91

PHOENIX (AP) — Karl-Anthony-Towns had 25 points, 18 rebounds and seven assists and Minnesota took an early lead and rolled past short-handed Phoenix.

Josh Okogie added a career-high 21 points for the Timberwolves, who beat the Suns for the second time in a row, following a 116-114 win in

Minneapolis on Sunday. In both games, Phoenix was without centers Deandre Ayton (left ankle sprain) and Richaun Holmes (right foot sprain).

Devin Booker scored 14 for Phoenix before he and Minnesota's Gorgui Deng were ejected with 5:24 left in the third quarter. Phoenix already trailed by 20 by then.

Josh Jackson had a season-high 27 points and 10 rebounds for Phoenix, which lost its fifth straight. Kelly Oubre Jr. added 13 and Dragan Bender, who started at center, had 12 points and 10 boards.

Andrew Wiggins scored 17 and Jared Bayless 14 for Minnesota.

MAVERICKS 106, CLIPPERS 98

DALLAS (AP) — Dennis Smith Jr. had 17 points and eight rebounds in his return after a week away from the team amid trade talk, and Dallas beat Los Angeles.

Smith had two of his four assists on a layup and alley-oop dunk in the fourth quarter for DeAndre Jordan, who had 13 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks.

Rookie sensation Luka Doncic matched Smith with 17 points. Harrison Barnes led Dallas with 20 points. □



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) goes up for a shot as Portland Trail Blazers center Jusuf Nurkic (27) defends in the second half of an NBA basketball game in Oklahoma City, Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

Nets minority owner buys WNBA's Liberty

By **DOUG FEINBERG**
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Liberty have a new owner and get to keep their NBA ties.

An investment group led by Brooklyn Nets minority owner Joseph Tsai has bought the Liberty, the WNBA announced Wednesday. Terms were not disclosed. Tsai, co-founder of the e-commerce giant Alibaba Group, bought a 49 percent interest in the Nets in April.

"We are fortunate to welcome Joe Tsai to the WNBA family at a pivotal time for our league," WNBA interim president Mark Tatum said in a statement. "As active participants in the New York community, Joe and his team are very well-positioned to take the Liberty to exciting new heights." The team will continue to play most of its home games at the Westchester County Center this year. The Liberty will play one game at Brooklyn's Barclays Center, the home of

the Nets, as a Comm-UNITY Day celebrating community, diversity and inclusion. "The Liberty and WNBA exemplify what it means to compete at the highest level, serve as role models in the local community, and bring greater opportunities to female athletes," Tsai said. "Our goal is to continue this important work and help bring the WNBA into its next phase of growth."

Previous Liberty owner James Dolan put the team up for sale in November 2017. There had been several potential buyers and a few were close to a purchase, but the deals fell through for various reasons. "As the proud owner of the Liberty for the past 22 years, we are pleased that Joe Tsai will now guide the franchise with a commitment to serving its loyal and passionate fans in New York," Dolan said.

New York is one of the three original WNBA franchises still in existence, along with the Los Angeles Sparks and the Phoenix Mercury. □

Acosta, Glad, Bono, Miller cut from U.S. roster

CHICAGO (AP) — Colorado midfielder Kellyn Acosta has been cut from the U.S. soccer roster for upcoming exhibitions against Panama and Costa Rica.

New coach Gregg Berhalter also dropped Salt Lake defender Justen Glad on Tuesday along with goalkeepers Alex Bono of Toronto and Tyler Miller of Los Angeles FC.

The U.S. team has been training in Chula Vista, California, ahead of matches against Panama on Sunday at Glendale, Arizona,

and versus Costa Rica on Feb. 2 at San Jose, California. Twenty-three players remain on the roster, all from Major League Soccer, including 11 who could make their national team debuts.

Just four players have more than six international appearances: midfielders Michael Bradley (142), Paul Arriola (17) and Wil Trapp (11), and forward Gyasi Zardes (40). Among defenders, Walker Zimmerman has the most appearances with four.

Berhalter will not have his full player pool available until March exhibitions. His first competitive matches will be at the CONCACAF Gold Cup in June.

The revised roster:

Defenders: Reggie Cannon (Dallas), Greg Garza (Cincinnati), Justen Glad (Salt Lake), Nick Lima (San Jose), Aaron Long (New York Red Bulls), Daniel Lovitz (Montreal), Mark McKenzie (Philadelphia), Keegan Rosenberry (Colorado), Auston Trusty (Philadelphia), Walker Zimmerman (LA) □

Larry Fitzgerald returning to Cardinals for 16th season

By **BOB BAUM**

AP Sports Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — That Hall of Fame slot will have to stay vacant for a while. Larry Fitzgerald isn't ready to hang up the cleats just yet. The receiver, whose career statistics rank among the best ever to play the game, has signed a one-year contract to return for a 16th season with the Arizona Cardinals.

"No player has meant more to this franchise or this community than Larry Fitzgerald," team President Michael Bidwill said Wednesday in the news release announcing the signing.

Fitzgerald explained his decision in an Instagram post.

"A fire burned inside of me my rookie year," he wrote, "a desire, over all else, to be great. To excel on the field. To impact the lives of others off of it. I'm grateful that the fire still burns just as bright today, and that this organization has let me chase that fire for well over a decade."

Fitzgerald continued: "Nothing excites me more than continuing to chase greatness with everyone here on and off the field." Fitzgerald, who will be 36 before the next season begins, may have been



In this Dec. 30, 2018, file photo, Arizona Cardinals' Larry Fitzgerald, left, snags a one-handed touchdown pass against the Seattle Seahawks during the first half of an NFL football game, in Seattle. Associated Press

enticed by the hiring of Kliff Kingsbury to replace the fired Steve Wilks. Kingsbury will bring his "air raid" offense from Texas Tech, where he coached for six seasons, and brought in veteran assistant coach Tom Clements to work with quarterback Josh Rosen, who had a rocky rookie season.

In recent years, State Farm Stadium rocked with chants of "Lar-ry! Lar-ry!" after one of his inevitable big plays. Probably no sports figure in Arizona has been as well-loved as No. 11.

Bidwill said in an interview with the team's flagship radio station, 98.7 FM Arizona's Sports Station, that he believes Kingsbury's hiring helped lure Fitzgerald back.

"I think they had a great conversation and he's excited about focusing on the offense," Bidwill said. "Obviously, he was very disappointed as all of us were in 2018. He bleeds Cardinal red. He wants to be part of getting this turned around. It's exciting he was able to make a quick decision and get right to it."

Arizona went 3-13 last season, the worst record in the NFL and matching the worst for the Cardinals since the franchise moved to the desert from St. Louis 30 years ago. The Cardinals finished last in the league in total offense, passing and rushing.

Consequently, it was a down year for Fitzgerald statistically, too. After three straight 100-catch seasons, Fitzgerald had 69 receptions for 734 yards and six touchdowns. He did, however, throw his first career TD pass, against the Rams in the next-to-last game of the season.

Fitzgerald has been remarkably durable in his career. He's caught a pass in 227 consecutive games, the second-longest such streak in NFL history.

He passed more milestones last season.

With 16,279 yards receiving, Fitzgerald passed Hall of Famer Terrell Owens for second (behind Jerry Rice) on the NFL career list. With 1,303 career catches, he passed Rice for most receptions for one team in his career. By playing in the season finale at Seattle, Fitzgerald tied kicker Jim Bakken for most games by a Cardinal at 234.

Fitzgerald needs 23 catches to pass Antonio Gates into second (again behind Rice) in career receptions. Drafted No. 3 overall by the Cardinals out of Pittsburgh in 2003, Fitzgerald has never indicated a desire to play anywhere else, despite the intermittent struggles of the team.

He's caught passes from 19 quarterbacks during his time in Arizona, with the most memorable years coming when he was paired with Kurt Warner and Carson Palmer. He's been at his best in the postseason.

No one has matched his record of 942 yards receiving in his first nine playoff games. He has five 100-yard receiving games in the postseason, an NFL-best three of at least 150 yards.

At the news conference announcing his hiring, the 49-year-old Kingsbury was asked about trying to woo Fitzgerald back for another season.

"What a great role model, what a great leader to have on your team," Kingsbury said at the time, "and I would be honored to work with him. He's a guy I've admired from afar for a long time." □



In this Tuesday, July 10, 2018 file photo, Seattle Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki, of Japan, smiles during warm ups before a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels in Anaheim, Calif. Associated Press

By **TIM BOOTH**

AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (AP) — Ichiro Suzuki has agreed to a minor league deal with the Se-

attle Mariners, paving the way for the 45-year-old to play in the Mariners' season-opening series in Japan.

Ichiro Suzuki agrees to minor league deal with Mariners

Suzuki's agent, John Boggs, confirmed the agreement on Wednesday and said Suzuki's deal would become a major league contract if he is added to Seattle's expanded roster for the two games the Mariners will play against Oakland to open the season in March in Tokyo. Seattle general manager Jerry Dipoto has said Suzuki is expected to be on the roster for those games.

Suzuki started last season playing for the Mariners but transitioned into a front-office role as a "special assistant to the chairman" that allowed him to take part

in pregame workouts and batting practice but not to be in the dugout during games. The move ended his season abruptly but with the knowledge that Seattle was opening 2019 in Japan, which would be a highly anticipated opportunity for him to play in his home country. Suzuki was hitting .205 in 44 at-bats during his limited action in 2018, and all nine of his hits this were singles.

Suzuki was named both the 2001 AL Rookie of the Year and MVP with the Mariners and won a pair of AL batting titles. He was traded to the Yankees midway

through 2012, played parts of three seasons with New York, then spent three seasons with Miami.

The 10-time All-Star has a .311 average and 3,089 hits, not including the 1,278 hits he amassed in nine seasons in Japan.

"One thing I've learned about Ichiro, his preparation and focus is the best I've ever seen in any player I've ever encountered," Dipoto said earlier this month when Seattle introduced new pitcher Yusei Kikuchi. "His single-mindedness in achieving a goal is so real that I won't put anything past him." □

Tiger

Continued from Page 17

Along with a Junior World title as a teenager, Woods has won the PGA Tour event seven times, and his most famous title at Torrey was that 2008 U.S. Open for his 14th major.

"You need to be a tremendous ball striker. You need to be a great iron player, a great short game," McIlroy said. "And those have been the hallmarks of his game over the past 20-odd years. So I can see why he has done so well around here."

Woods gets his next crack when he makes his 2019 debut at Torrey Pines, with a chance to win consecutive PGA Tour starts for the first time in six years.

Never mind that his last start was four months ago at the season-ending Tour Championship.

All that did was ratchet up the expectations, a far cry from a year ago when expectations were replaced by curiosity. Woods started last season after recovering from a fourth back surgery, unsure how he would respond from gouging out of thick rough or how much he would be able to play in the early part of the year.

"Way different," Woods said. "Last year was very fluid, and it was like trying to hit a moving target. It was quite interesting to try and figure it all out as the year progressed.

This year I have a great understanding of what I can and can't do. There's not uncertainty that I had last year after what I did at the end of last year."

Woods brings a big buzz to a tournament that already has a lot going for it — good weather, gorgeous views of the Pacific, the first network coverage of the year (CBS) and the open week before the Super Bowl.

Phil Mickelson is skipping his hometown event for the first time in 28 years, though there is no shortage of star power with Woods and McIlroy, Jordan Spieth playing for the first time in four years, Xander Schauffele, Masters champion Patrick Reed and Justin Rose, who



Tiger Woods smiles on the third green during the pro-am round of the Farmer's Insurance Open golf tournament on the North Course at Torrey Pines Golf Course on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, in San Diego, Calif.

remains No. 1 in the world. This is the first strong test of the year with a North course that has been upgraded and a South course renowned for hosting the U.S. Open in 2008, with another one coming in 2021. McIlroy had only seen the South course on television. He was only 10 when he played the Junior World, not old enough to compete at Torrey. Instead, he played at Presidio Hills in downtown, where he made a hole-in-one and tied for eighth with a group that included Tony Finau. But it has felt familiar to him this week. "I feel like I've watched this tournament a lot on TV, whether it be U.S. Open or this tournament over the years," McIlroy said. "It's funny, you get a sort of perception of a golf course from TV, but then you play it and it does play very differently than I thought it was going to play." Spieth hasn't been back since the North course was redone and the nines were flipped, so he couldn't figure out which hole he was on at times

during the pro-am. But he remembers where he made his pro debut in 2013 (he missed the cut) and the following year when he played with Woods for the first time.

At Torrey, everything comes back to Tiger.

Woods and Spieth practiced together Tuesday and at one point, Spieth asked him how long he had

been coming to the tournament. "Ten years longer than you've been alive," he replied to the 25-year-old Spieth.

It was first tournament he attended with his father. It's a course on which he has won eight times as a pro, equal to his number of wins at Bay Hill and Firestone. And it's a tournament where a tie for 23rd last year

Associated Press



felt like an accomplishment because he wasn't sure what to expect.

"The fact that I was able to get through, I didn't have any zinging down my leg like I did before, I didn't have any problems at night recovering for the next day," he said.

"Those are big accomplishments. This year, it's totally different. I know what I can do, so now it's about finishing a little bit better and winning some events." □

Editor

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Assistant Director

Xiomara Arends

Editor in Chief

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Liza Koolman (Management assistant)

Editors

Richard Brooks
Jeancarlo Trinidad

Sales

Linda Reijnders
(linda.reijnders@cspnv.com)
Sulaika Croes

Classifieds

Rachelle Danje
(rachelle.danje@cspnv.com)

Distribution and Collection

accounting@bondia.com

Social / Website

Cristian Soto Garcia
Pilar Flores
Juan Luis Pinto

Columnists

Anthony Croes
Joris Zantvoort
Louedska Maduro
Shanella Pantophlet
Steve Francees
Thais Franken

Weststraat 22
T: 582-7800
E: news@arubatoday.com
W: www.arubatoday.com
@arubatoday

EU's antitrust cop lays groundwork for more tech scrutiny

By **KELVIN CHAN**

AP Business Writer

COPENHAGEN, Denmark

(AP) — Silicon Valley's notorious nemesis, Margrethe Vestager, plans to end her term as the European Union's antitrust enforcer this year with a bang, laying out a long-term plan to intensify scrutiny of the world's big tech companies. As the EU's competition commissioner, Vestager is arguably the world's most important tech regulator. Since 2014, she has slapped Google with eye-popping multibillion-dollar antitrust penalties, ordered Apple and Amazon to pay back taxes and fined Facebook over its WhatsApp acquisition — flagship enforcement cases that have struck fear into Silicon Valley while drawing attention in Washington.

Now, in her final year in of-



The European Union's competition commissioner, Margrethe Vestager, poses during an interview Monday Jan. 14, 2019, in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Associated Press

fice, the 50-year-old Danish politician is laying the groundwork for a new phase of regulation beyond the end of her term in October.

She's planning a report meant to guide EU competition policies in the era of digitization. Feedback

from companies, business groups and experts shows many see the need for more regulation and when it's published in March, the report by three expert advisers will reflect the need for new or tougher rules, she told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

"The most important thing is that the majority of input is pro-enforcement," Vestager said during one of her frequent visits to Copenhagen from her Brussels base. The digital technology industry can no longer be allowed to shape itself, she added. "We are way beyond that."

It's unclear yet what shape the new enforcement will take but it may not bode well for the big U.S. technology companies that have landed in Vestager's crosshairs.

Vestager has cultivated a down-to-earth image — she likes to knit elephants during meetings — that belies her formidable powers of enforcement.

She opened three antitrust cases against Google, including one that resulted in a record 4.3 billion euro (\$5 billion) fine for forcing cell-phone makers to use the internet giant's software on Android phones. Another 2.4 billion euro (\$2.8 billion) penalty was punishment for manipulating shopping search results. She aims to wrap up a probe before her term ends of whether Google blocked rivals from its AdSense ad service.

Vestager ordered Apple to pay back up to 13 billion euros (\$15 billion) in back taxes from Ireland. Apple CEO Tim Cook called it "total political crap" and President Donald Trump referred to her as the "tax lady" who "really hates the U.S." The EU competition commissioner, with a 900-strong staff, is unusually powerful in the Brussels bureaucracy because it can enforce bloc-wide rules, giving it the power to take on countries and companies. Other departments typically share regulatory duties with national governments. Vestager's job includes approving or rejecting mergers and investigating cartels and antitrust behavior. She also makes sure EU states don't give tax breaks to individual companies that are not available to other corporations — legitimate business strategy in the U.S. but

illegal in Europe. A lot of attention is now falling on data, the commodity that drives the digital economy. Information collected by web browsers, apps, smart-phones and other devices can be enormously valuable to companies because they can provide insight about, for example, an individual's buying habits and movements. Data can power artificial intelligence or be used to show targeted advertisements. Vestager is concerned that a small group of companies could corner the market and abuse their power. She started confronting the problem with an informal probe launched last year into whether online shopping giant Amazon is using data to gain an edge on third party merchants, who are both its customers and rivals. She hopes to decide within six months whether to open a formal investigation. "I think you need products that will help you exercise your rights. Independent digital assistants that will make sure that your privacy settings are maintained no matter where you go. That kind of stuff," she said.

Vestager, whose party was founded by her great-grandfather, was Denmark's deputy prime minister and economy minister before taking up her post in Brussels in late 2014. She reportedly keeps a sculpture of a hand with an extended middle finger in her office, a gift from a Danish trade union angered by her welfare cuts. She's said to be one of the inspirations for the lead character in the Danish TV show "Borgen," about an ambitious minor politician trying to become the country's first female prime minister. Although Vestager's term runs out in October, she's hoping for a second stint, an unlikely prospect because her party is out of power in Denmark and its prospects look uncertain in upcoming elections. The EU's executive commissioners are nominated by their country's governments. □

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Analysis: Falling home sales not helping middle-class buyers

By JOSH BOAK

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When home sales weaken, prices typically do, too, and buyers benefit.

Not quite this time. Home purchases in many areas of the country have dipped, and price gains have slowed. Yet a rising number of middle-class Americans are finding that home ownership is unaffordable.

Why? Mortgage rates are up after years near historic lows. Price increases have been outrunning paychecks. And at a target price that families with a median income could afford, fewer homes are for sale.

In the past year, the availability of homes that a middle-class family could buy has declined in 86 percent of the largest metro areas, according to an analysis of 49 cities being released Wednesday by the real estate brokerage Redfin and provided in advance to The Associated Press.

That figure assumes a 20 percent down payment. If a buyer can put only 10 percent down — common among first-timers — the number of affordable listings fell in 94 percent of those metro areas, Redfin found.

"Housing prices went up so much in 2017 and the first half of 2018 that we reached a point where buyers just couldn't pay



In this Friday, June 8, 2018, photo, a "For Sale" sign stands in front of a house, in Jenkintown, Pa.

these high prices," said Daryl Fairweather, chief economist at Redfin.

The effect of those unsustainable price gains is evident in the slumping year-end sales totals tracked by the National Association of Realtors. Sales tumbled 3.1 percent last year to 5.34 million, the fewest since 2015, the Realtors reported Tuesday.

The strong economy offered little support to would-be buyers because mortgage rates climbed for much of last year, making purchases costlier. Though more homes are on the market compared with 2017, they're increasingly clustered in price ranges that only the affluent or wealthy can afford.

The Redfin analysis found that on average, 55 percent of homes listed for

sale were affordable with a 10 percent down payment. That was a drop from 60 percent in 2017. A higher 20 percent down payment would make monthly payments more manageable, but loan data suggest that a growing number of first-time buyers can't put down 20 percent.

The squeeze goes well beyond the famously high-priced home markets of San Francisco, Seattle and New York. In metro areas long known for affordable home values — Milwaukee, Memphis, Pittsburgh, St. Louis, Phoenix and others — the number of homes for sale that a household with a median income could afford has slipped.

The trend poses a major risk for many Americans: Household equity is the principal source of wealth for middle

class households; without it, many would struggle to build much wealth at all.

The median net worth of an American homeowner is \$231,400, according to the Federal Reserve. That is more than 44 times the median net worth of renters, which is \$5,200. The median net worth of homeowners surged by an inflation-adjusted 15 percent from 2013 to 2016, according to the Fed, while renters actually became poorer over that time.

Home affordability has been worsening since the real estate market bottomed in 2012. The recovery in home values has easily surpassed gains in typical paychecks. This made many existing homeowners better off — though not enough to necessarily move up to costlier homes. And their decision to stay put has compounded the shortage of homes for sale. In the Dallas area, just 55 percent of the listings are affordable for median-income families with 10 percent down payments. That's a decline from 59 percent in 2017.

Cathy Mitchell, a real estate broker in the Dallas area, said it's "really tough" to find starter homes for \$150,000 or less. Mitchell said some builders are beginning to shift their focus away from luxury properties to more affordable homes. But she said she thinks any

such trend will be gradual.

"I am hoping it's going to change," she said. "But is it going to change right away? I don't think so."

Nationally, home values have climbed 44 percent on average since 2012 but incomes only about 15 percent, according to Tendayi Kapfudz, chief economist at the online loan broker LendingTree.

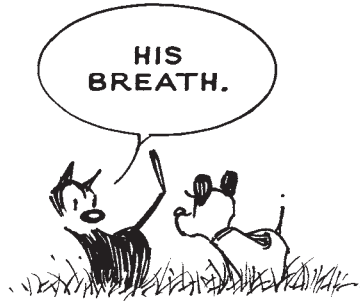
"Ultimately, incomes are the anchor or the gravitational field on prices," Kapfudz said.

If the housing market is to accelerate again, he added, incomes will need to start rising faster than home values or home values must decline. The slowdown in price increases should eventually boost the supply of homes for sale, though, Kapfudz said.

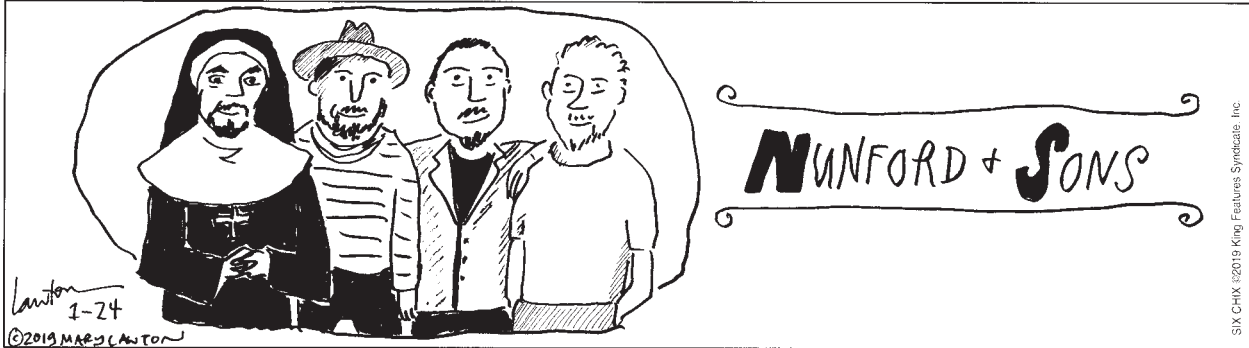
The Realtors' December sales report found that the median home price had risen just 2.9 percent in the past year to \$253,600. This marked the first time since 2012 that home price gains were lower than increases in average hourly earnings, which have risen 3.2 percent in the past 12 months. But the gap between home-price growth and typical pay raises remains so wide that it could take the housing market several more months of lower price gains to adjust.

"It's a very slow process — and there's no guarantees," Kapfudz said. □

Mutts



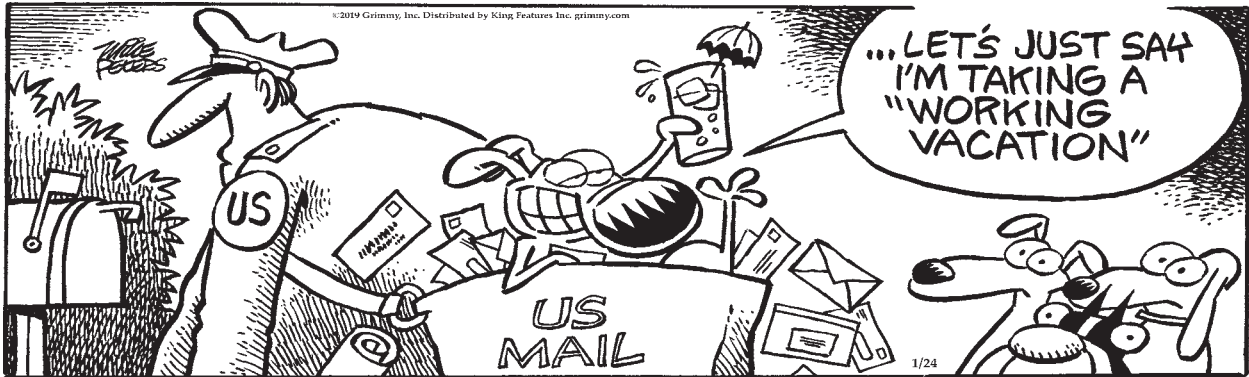
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	6		2					
3			6			1	4	
	2	8					3	
5		9		7				
				9		5		6
	5					4	2	
	7	3			4			8
				8		7		

Difficulty Level ★★★

1/24

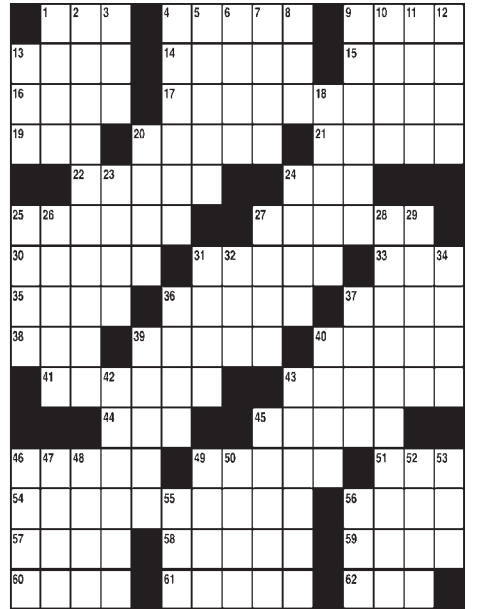
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

7	5	2	9	8	3	1	6	4
6	8	4	1	2	5	7	9	3
1	9	3	4	6	7	5	2	8
8	7	5	3	9	2	4	1	6
2	4	9	6	7	1	3	8	5
3	6	1	5	4	8	2	7	9
9	2	7	8	3	4	6	5	1
5	3	8	7	1	6	9	4	2
4	1	6	2	5	9	8	3	7

ACROSS

- 1 Fraternity letter
- 4 Left-hand ledger entry
- 9 "Beat it!"
- 13 Burial site
- 14 Banishment
- 15 Tramp
- 16 Impolite
- 17 Erroneous; misleading
- 19 Cake ingredient
- 20 Drives in reverse
- 21 Takes a break
- 22 Vote into office
- 24 Texter's giggle
- 25 Chicago gangster
- 27 Labor Day, for one
- 30 Embrace as one's own
- 31 Highly seasoned
- 33 Actor Marvin
- 35 Tupperware covers
- 36 "Be quiet!"
- 37 Kill
- 38 Journal
- 39 Staircase parts
- 40 "Been __, done that"
- 41 Made airtight
- 43 Wears the crown
- 44 Water barrier
- 45 Biblical bread from heaven
- 46 Decorate
- 49 Clever
- 51 2,000 pounds
- 54 Breathe new life into
- 56 Dig for ore
- 57 Musical symbol
- 58 Dos and don'ts
- 59 Leave suddenly
- 60 __ at; imply
- 61 Toothpaste brand
- 62 __ minute now; very soon



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/24/19

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

SPAM	SLAP	SLIM
NICER	LOLL	HOLE
UNCLE	ILLEGIBLE	
GEE	MOP	ARREST
PHILS	SET	
ASTUTE	GUESTS	
REAMS	HOARD	HEM
MOBS	LUNGE	BEAU
YUL	SOLES	DARTS
LENTIL	SOREST	
OUT	DONNA	
SUPINE	UNO	FDR
PROSTRATE	RATIO	
OGRE	EARL	SHEET
TEES	RAYS	ARTS

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1/24/19

DOWN

- 1 Sink stopper
- 2 Jumble
- 3 Suffix for meteor or graph

- 4 Mar; scratch
- 5 Precise
- 6 Cheat; defraud
- 7 Woes
- 8 Pekoe or oolong
- 9 Protective plate
- 10 Pigeon cries
- 11 Border on
- 12 Throw
- 13 Prefix for paid or cooked
- 18 Close friend
- 20 Crooked
- 23 Cuts off
- 24 Ness or Lomond
- 25 Pay a __ on; visit
- 26 "Bye, José"
- 27 Feminine title
- 28 Unproven charge
- 29 Long persistently
- 31 Small outbuilding
- 32 Baby dog
- 34 Peepers
- 36 Flower stalk
- 37 Lower leg part
- 39 Incline; lean

- 40 Portable shelter
- 42 Floating freely
- 43 Most unusual
- 45 Labyrinths
- 46 Curved beam overhead
- 47 Sandwich shop
- 48 Kitchen appliance
- 49 Insulting remark
- 50 Linear measure
- 52 "I __ Have Eyes for You"
- 53 Butterfly catcher's need
- 55 St. Joan of __
- 56 Advanced deg.

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1 BR WK# 2 room # G303 Odd
year
1 BR WK# 3 room # B203 even
year
1 BR WK# 3 room # G108 Odd
year.
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Shutdown makes it tough for groups to help endangered whales

By **PATRICK WHITTLE**

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) —

Rescuers who respond to distressed whales and other marine animals say the federal government shutdown is making it more difficult to do their work.

A network of rescue groups in the U.S. works with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to respond to marine mammals such as whales and seals when the animals are in trouble, such as when they are stranded on land or entangled in fishing gear. But the federal shutdown, which entered its 33rd day Wednesday, includes a shuttering of the NOAA operations the rescuers rely upon.

NOAA plays a role in preventing accidental whale deaths by doing things like tracking the animals, operating a hotline for mariners who find distressed whales and providing permits that allow the rescue groups to respond to emergencies. Those functions are disrupted or ground to a halt by the shutdown, and that's bad news if whales need help, said Tony LaCasse, a spokesman for the New England Aquarium in Boston, which has a rescue operation.

"If it was very prolonged, then it would become problematic to respond to animals that are in the water," LaCasse said. "And to be able to have a better handle on what is really going on." The shutdown is coming at a particularly dangerous time for the endangered North Atlantic right whale, which numbers about 411, said Regina Asmutis-Silvia, a senior biologist with Whale and Dolphin Conservation of



In this March 28, 2018 file photo, a North Atlantic right whale feeds on the surface of Cape Cod bay off the coast of Plymouth, Mass. **Associated Press**

Plymouth, Massachusetts. The whales are under tight scrutiny right now because of recent years of high mortality and poor reproduction. NOAA recently identified an aggregation of 100 of the whales south of Nantucket — nearly a quarter of the world's population — but the survey work is now interrupted by the shutdown, Asmutis-Silvia said. Surveys of rare whales are important for biologists who study the animals and so rescuers can have an idea of where they are located, she said. No right whale mortalities have been recorded so far in 2019, but there have been at least 20 since April 2017.

"There's a really significant impact on marine mammal conservation based on this shutdown," Asmutis-Silvia said. "We have little to no ability to find them because of NOAA's being furloughed."

Many in the conservation

community are anticipating potential changes to the federal government's Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan, which is a tool to reduce incidental deaths of whales. But that process, too, is on hold because of the shutdown.

Calls from The Associated Press to NOAA spokespeople were not returned. Some spokespeople for the agency have voicemail set up to say they will return to work when the shutdown is over. Outside of the federal government, work to protect whales is still going on. The developer of an offshore wind energy project off Massachusetts announced Wednesday it is partnering with environmental groups on a plan

to try to protect the right whales.

And not all the news about the whales is gloomy. A Florida research team has located the third right whale calf of the season. None were spotted last season. Scott Landry, director of marine mammal entanglement response for the Center for Coastal Studies in Provincetown, Massachusetts, said that a NOAA whale entanglement hotline is currently being forwarded to him, and that he's managing to pick up the slack so far. Rescue groups anticipated the shutdown and are working together to make do until it's over, he said.

In Virginia, one of the state's first responders for

whale rescues is the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center in Virginia Beach. Mark Swingle, the aquarium's director of research and conservation, said the center would not have "the usual assets we depend on to support the response" if it needs to assist an endangered whale. That's because NOAA staff and the Coast Guard would not be available, Swingle said.

"These circumstances require extremely specialized training and resources and NOAA is the lead organizer of large whale and other disentanglement efforts," he said. "Live strandings pose their own set of challenges that NOAA helps navigate appropriately." □

Wind project partners with environmentalists on rare whales

BOSTON (AP) — The developer of an offshore wind energy project is partnering with environmental groups on a plan to try to protect the endangered North Atlantic right whale. The whale is one of the rarest marine mammals. It's thought to number only 411 individuals. The animals travel through New England waters every year. Vineyard Wind, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the National Wildlife Federation and the Conservation Law Founda-

tion announced an agreement designed to protect the whales on Wednesday. Vineyard Wind's piece of the agreement involves instituting protective measures while installing and operating turbines as part of a proposed 84-turbine project off Massachusetts.

The developer and the groups say construction will be curtailed in the winter and early spring, which is when the whales tend to visit New England waters. □



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Spike Lee likes his Oscar odds with 'BlackKkKlansman'

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Spike Lee watched the Oscar nominations Tuesday morning on television from his bed, with his wife, Tonya, his two grown children, Satchel and Jackson, and their dog, Ginger.

Screaming ensued.

Lee landed his first directing Academy Award nomination for "BlackKkKlansman," his comic and furious send-up of white supremacy. The film, about a black detective (John David Washington) who leads an undercover investigation of the Klu Klux Klan, won six nominations altogether, including best picture and best adapted screenplay, a nod Lee shared with Charlie Wachtel, David Rabinowitz and Kevin Willmott.

But the most long-in-coming nomination was Lee's first nod for best director, something many thought should have happened numerous times before, starting with 1989's "Do the Right Thing." Lee was nominated then for best screenplay for that film, but the lack of more Oscar attention for "Do the Right Thing"



In this Jan. 13, 2019 file photo, director Spike Lee arrives at the 24th annual Critics' Choice Awards in Santa Monica, Calif.

Associated Press

was lamented even then by Oscar presenter Kim Basinger.

"Thirty years is a long time, ain't it?" Lee said Tuesday by phone from the Brooklyn office of his production company, 40 Acres and a Mule, before letting out a lengthy cackle.

In that time, the 61-year-old Lee hasn't escaped the notice of the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. His "4 Little Girls" was nominated for best documentary in 1998 and he was given an honor-

ary Oscar in 2016 when he rebuked Hollywood's diversity record, saying: "It's easier to be president of the United States as a black person than be head of a studio. Honest."

But that Lee, the filmmaker of "Malcolm X," "25th Hour" and "When the Levees Broke," has never won a competitive Oscar strikes many as a plain injustice. Now, Lee may have the best shot of his career in "BlackKkKlansman."

He likes his odds.

"'BlackKkKlansman' is the

dark horse — pun intended," said Lee with another laugh. "You know what? That's fitting. I've always been an underdog, from the very beginning, from film school. That narrative has not changed. And I like that position."

Lee regretted the oversight of his lead actor, John David Washington, whom he called on Tuesday to console. Lee told Washington, whose father Denzel has been a mainstay in Lee's films, that there are awards in his future. "Young blood, you'll be here," Lee vowed. Adam Driver, who plays Washington's partner in the film, was nominated for best supporting actor. "BlackKkKlansman" composer Terence Blanchard was also nominated for best score, the jazz musician's first nomination after a career scoring most of Lee's films since 1991's "Jungle Fever."

Lee becomes the sixth black filmmaker nominated for best director. The last was Jordan Peele, who produced "BlackKkKlansman" and sent Lee the script, based on Ron Stallworth's 2014 memoir. Lee and Willmott then gave

the tale a searing coda, connecting the 1970s-set film with last year's violent white supremacist protest in Charlottesville, Virginia.

No black filmmaker has ever won best director.

"One day, one of us has got to break through," said Lee.

Lee planned to celebrate with a get-together in Fort Lee, Brooklyn, Tuesday evening. But his thoughts were also on the timely subject of his film, one he traces directly to President Donald Trump. After the film's premiere at the Cannes Film Festival in May, Lee lambasted Trump for his response to Charlottesville. Lee released the film in August on the one-year anniversary of Charlottesville.

"This film speaks directly to the Looney Tunes world we live in. It speaks directly to why the government is shut down, why 800,000 people are in desperation not knowing where their next check is going to come from.

It speaks to everything this guy has brought to the world since he's occupied the White House," said Lee. "People get it right away." □

Study of Leonardo's 1st landscape finds he had 2nd thoughts

By FRANCES D'EMILIO
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — The first-ever scientific study of the oldest known drawing by Leonardo da Vinci has found that he added details to an earlier sketch of a countryside landscape, said the Uffizi Galleries, whose collections include the fragile work.

The Galleries said the 1473 "Landscape Drawing for Santa Maria della Neve" was taken on Thursday to a Florence restoration laboratory for study, which began right away with microscopic examination.

Aided by sophisticated, non-invasive instruments, such as infrared light, the experts on Thursday scrutinized the front of the drawing. Later they will study the back, where there is a sketch of a human figure,



In this photo provided by the Opera Laboratori on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, a drawing by Leonardo Da Vinci is observed after being removed from a briefcase which carried it from the Uffizi Gallery to the Opificio delle Pietre Dure where it will undergo scientific analysis, in Florence, Italy.

Associated Press

the prestigious Florence art museum said in a statement. Art historian Cecilia Frosinini, who is supervising the scientific study, said that initial examination showed that Leonardo worked in two different phases.

"It's possible that Leonardo went back to the drawing in a second moment, maybe right after his studies of geology and rocks," she said.

The drawing, dated Aug. 5, 1473, in the upper left corner, depicts a bucolic scene, with a castle on a hill in the background and a valley dominating the design's center.

Leonardo is celebrated as a Renaissance genius who excelled as an artist and who had creative scientific curiosity as well.

Some have hypothesized

that the drawing depicted an actual place in Leonardo's native Tuscany, or as Uffizi director Eike Schmidt said, "was a kind of 'photograph' of this or that valley, of these or those mountains." But the discovery that Leonardo worked on the drawing in two distinct phases "tilts the scale toward interpretations that underline the imaginative aspect and the character of intellectual speculation by the artist," Schmidt said in a statement.

The Uffizi only occasionally displays the work, Leonardo's earliest known drawing, because it is so fragile. But on April 15 it will go on display for five weeks in Vinci, the artist's hometown, as Italy marks the 500th anniversary of Leonardo's death. □

Noomi Rapace explores the female bodyguard life in 'Close'

By LINDSEY BAHR

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Director Vicky Jewson was looking for women with dangerous jobs to get inspiration for her next project when she came across the name Jacquie Davis. Davis is a bodyguard, a rare profession for a woman, and has in the past 30 years protected everyone from royals to celebrities like Nicole Kidman and J.K. Rowling, and also staged undercover rescue missions and surveillance operations. There was little question that her experiences would be the perfect template for "Close," now streaming on Netflix. "I really love to bring strong female protagonists to genre movies," said Jewson. "(Jacquie) kind of blew my mind...It's not really been seen before. And as a filmmaker I'm always looking to bring something fresh and new to the screen."

In the film, the Davis stand-in is Sam, a counter-terrorism expert and bodyguard who gets enlisted to protect a spoiled heiress from



This image released by Netflix shows Noomi Rapace, left, and Sophie Nélisse in a scene from "Close."

some dangerous people out for her fortune. Noomi Rapace, no stranger to action roles, or to having security around her, would eventually join on to play Sam. But the Swedish actress hadn't put much thought into the profession until taking on the role. Rapace got to spend a fair amount of time with Davis, both in training and picking her

brain about what goes on in her mind when a situation goes south. "I asked her if she felt scared and she said, 'in the moment, never. That comes afterward. I put my fear to the side, it's a decision that I make.' She has a very strong mind and she says everything starts in the mind and it can tell your body how to react," Rapace said. Still, there's a toll of such an intense life, which the film

also explores. "She sleeps with her shoes on. She can't sleep in a normal bed," Rapace added. "You can see that this life has affected her in many ways. She doesn't have a very bright view of the world. She's seen a lot of bad things and she's seen a lot of people do bad things to others. She has seen a lot and you can feel it in her soul." Rapace believes, however, that every woman should

meet "a Jacquie" and "tap into that primal instinct of protecting yourself." "Close" was independently made. Although it's a solid action pic with all the intensity of a Jason Statham vehicle, Jewson experienced some pushback in the early stages of development. She found an ally in the WestEnd Films brand We Love, which produces films aimed at female audiences, with credits like "Albert Nobbs" and "The Breadwinner," and helped secure financing for the shoot. Netflix acquired the film during post-production and both Jewson and Rapace are excited by the prospect that the film is going to be available and seen by so many people immediately. Rapace had a good experience with the streaming service with the film "What Happened to Monday," but the power of Netflix really crystalized when she saw the phenomenon of "Bird Box." She was just with her friend Susanna Bier, who directed "Bird Box," which Netflix said Wednesday has been streamed by 80 million accounts. □

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Wendy Williams to take health-related break from TV show

By LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Wendy Williams is taking an extended break from her TV talk show to deal with health issues related to her immune system disorder, her family said Friday. The family wrote in a statement that Williams has suffered complications from Graves' disease in the past few days. Treatment is necessary and will include "significant time" in the hospital, according to the family statement provided by show producer and distributor Debmar-Mercury. Williams has a strong desire to return to work but must focus on her "personal and physical well-being," the family said, adding a re-



In this Nov. 7, 2014 file photo, host Wendy Williams appears at the 2014 Soul Train Awards in Las Vegas.

quest that her privacy be respected. Williams, 54, is married to Kevin Hunter. She is on the mend from another health problem, a shoulder fracture she suf-

fered in December, the statement said. The host revealed the Graves' disease diagnosis on her show last February, when she announced a three-week hiatus. □

Ronnie Milsap returned to his iconic studio for duets album

By KRISTIN M. HALL

Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) —

Country soul icon Ronnie Milsap is a bit of a studio geek, and he thinks a lot about music technology and recording equipment. So it makes sense that he spent a long time getting 13 other singers and bands into the studio to record duets with him for a new album, "Ronnie Milsap: The Duets," to be released Friday, just two days after his 76th birthday.

"I am a lot into the technical side of it," he said during a recent interview at his home in Nashville. "I believe in certain types of microphones. I believe in certain pre-amplifiers."

He says it took him a few years to finish the album because of scheduling, but he's amassed an impressive list of partners, from Dolly Parton, Willie Nelson, ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons, Kacey Musgraves and many more.

"The whole trick was trying to find a time that Luke



In this Jan. 16, 2019 photo, Ronnie Milsap poses for a photo on the stage of The Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tenn.

Associated Press

Bryan could come in or George Strait could come in," Milsap said.

Born in North Carolina, Milsap was a wunderkind at musical instrumentation, learning gospel, country and pop music from radio and classical techniques from the State School for the Blind in Raleigh.

Early on in his career, he played piano on Elvis Presley records such as "Kentucky Rain," in which the

King of Rock 'n' Roll implored him for "more thunder on the piano, Milsap!" After moving to Nashville, he bought a Music Row studio from Roy Orbison, renovating it and turning it into a hit factory, starting with his 1979 hit "Nobody Likes Sad Songs" through his major hits like "Stranger in My House." He had the recording console equipped with a Braille label and kept it until 1995.

The studio known as Ronnie's Place is still in use today by record label Black River Entertainment and that was where Milsap returned to record the new album.

The six-time Grammy winner said he tried as much as possible to be in the studio with his duet partners when they were recording, rather than recording at separate times.

Little Big Town added their pristine harmonies to his iconic hit "Lost in the Fifties Tonight," while Strait was given the lead on "Houston Solution."

"I gave him the first line, 'I got some friends down in Houston, who know me quite well,'" Milsap said. "I thought George ought to have it. George is from Texas."

He also has two duets with artists who have since died, including Leon Russell and Montgomery Gentry's Troy Gentry. Russell, who died in 2016, recorded "Misery Loves Company," originally a hit for Porter Wag-

oner and a cover song that Milsap recorded in 1980, and Montgomery Gentry recorded a song called "Shakey Ground" that was originally recorded by the Temptations.

"I'd take a verse, Troy would take a verse and Eddie Montgomery would take a verse," Milsap said. Montgomery said recording with Milsap was a bucket list item that he's glad they got to check off before Gentry's death in a helicopter crash in 2017.

"He is the king of soul, I think," said Montgomery.

"In country, nobody sings with more heart. 'Stranger in My House' was the first time I heard rock 'n' roll guitars on a country song."

Even Milsap has adapted to new audio technology, and he says while he still listens to radio, he loves his Amazon smart speaker.

"'Alexa, play 'A Legend in My Time' by Ronnie Milsap' and right there it is," Milsap demonstrated in his house. "It's not the same model anymore to sell records." □

Unseen J.D. Salinger photos shot for 'Catcher' on display

By HOLLY RAMER

Associated Press

DURHAM, N.H. (AP) — The University of New Hampshire is celebrating J.D. Salinger's centennial year with an exhibit he likely would have loathed: a display of previously unseen photos of the famously reclusive author.

Salinger, who was born Jan. 1, 1919, and died in 2010, spent the last nearly six decades of his life far from the public eye in Cornish, New Hampshire. The photos unveiled Tuesday were taken by famed German photographer Lotte Jacobi for the book jacket of Salinger's 1951 novel "Catcher in the Rye," but he requested the picture be removed from the book after the first printing so he wouldn't be recognized.

The collection of 17 images essentially doubles the number of public photos of Salinger, said Thomas Payne, associate professor of English at the university.

Payne said that in today's society where "narcissism has gone viral," Salinger was ahead of his time in retreating to Cornish to "pull the



A previously unseen photo of author J.D. Salinger is displayed at the University of New Hampshire in Durham, N.H., on Tuesday, Jan. 22, 2019.

Associated Press

wall down on human interaction." "Today, if J.D. went to Cornish ... we'd know what he was fleeing," Payne said. "The emptiness of being known but not really seen."

Though he praised Salinger as someone with a "rare depth of soul," Payne also said viewing some of his work and his personal life through the lens of the current

#MeToo movement is "very troubling."

At age 53, Salinger wrote to an 18-year-old college student, Joyce Maynard, and invited her to live with him after reading an essay she had published in The New York Times Magazine. Maynard dropped out of Yale and lived with him for a year before

he sent her packing. "That is obviously of deep concern," Payne said in an interview. "I had women writers in my life 10 years ago who, when I spoke of my love of Salinger, called me out. I didn't see what they saw enough. ... I deeply regret that I was obtuse, that I didn't see what they saw." Maynard, also an author, said Tuesday that the photos show a very different man from the one she knew.

"This was a young man in possession of no small amount of ambition, publishing his first novel, and hoping very much to capture the attention of the public.

The demands for privacy would come much later," she said in an email.

Though she waited 25 years before publishing a book about the year she spent with Salinger before he sent her packing, she was widely criticized for violating his privacy by telling her story and for later selling the letters Salinger wrote her. In 1999, New York Times columnist Maureen Dowd called her a "predator." □

We can't save everything from climate change – here's how to make choices

By Benjamin Preston,
Johanna Nalau
Associated Press

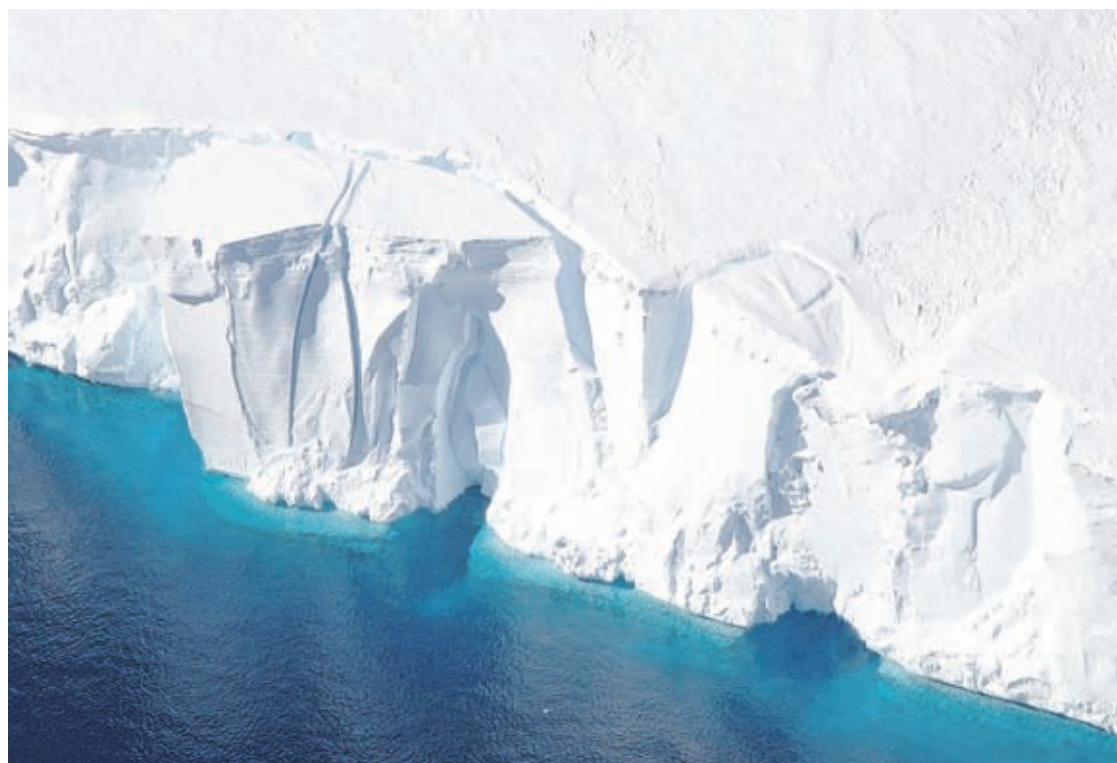
Recent reports have delivered sobering messages about climate change and its consequences. They include the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C; the fourth installment of the U.S. government's National Climate Assessment; and the World Meteorological Organization's initial report on the State of the Global Climate 2018.

As these reports show, climate change is already occurring, with impacts that will become more intense for decades into the future. They also make clear that reducing greenhouse gas emissions from human activities to a level that would limit warming to 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) or less above preindustrial levels will pose unprecedented challenges.

Today, however, there is a large and growing gap between what countries say they'd like to achieve and what they have committed to do. As scholars focused on climate risk management and adaptation, we believe it is time to think about managing climate change damage in terms of triage.

Hard choices already are being made about which risks society will attempt to manage. It is critically important to spend limited funds where they will have the most impact.

Triageing climate change



This 2016 photo provided by NASA shows the Getz Ice Shelf from 2016's Operation Icebridge in Antarctica.

Triage is a process of prioritizing actions when the need is greater than the supply of resources. It emerged on the battlefields of World War I, and is widely used today in fields ranging from disaster medicine to ecosystem conservation and software development.

The projected global costs of adapting to climate change just in developing countries range up to US\$300 billion by 2030 and \$500 billion by mid-century. But according to a recent estimate by Oxfam, just \$5 billion to \$7 billion was invested in projects specific to climate adaptation in 2015-2016.

Triageing climate change means placing consequences into different buckets. Here, we propose

three.

The first bucket represents impacts that can be avoided or managed with minimal or no interventions. For example, assessments of how climate change will affect U.S. hydropower indicate that this sector can absorb the impacts without a need for costly interventions.

The second bucket is for impacts that are probably unavoidable despite all best efforts. Consider polar bears, which rely on sea ice as a platform to reach their prey. Efforts to reduce emissions can help sustain polar bears, but there are few ways to help them adapt. Protecting Australia's Great Barrier Reef or the Brazilian Amazon poses similar chal-

lenges.

The third bucket represents impacts for which practical and effective actions can be taken to reduce risk. For example, cities such as Phoenix, Chicago and Philadelphia have been investing for years in extreme heat warning systems and emergency response strategies to reduce risks to public health.

There are a variety of options for making agriculture more resilient, from precision agriculture to biotechnology to no-till farming. And large investments in infrastructure and demand management strategies have historically helped supply water to otherwise scarce regions and reduce flood risk.

In each of these cases, the challenge is aligning what's technically feasible with society's willingness to pay.

What triage-based planning looks like

Other experts have called for climate change triage in contexts such as managing sea level rise and flood risk and conserving ecosystems. But so far, this approach has not made inroads into adaptation policy.

How can societies enable triage-based planning? One key step is to invest in valuing assets that are at risk. Placing a value on assets exchanged in economic markets, such as agriculture, is relatively straightforward. For example, RAND and Louisiana State University have estimated the costs of coastal land loss in Louisiana owing to property loss, increased storm damage, and loss of wetland habitat that supports commercial fisheries. Valuing non-market assets, such as cultural resources, is more challenging but not impossible. When North Carolina's Cape Hatteras lighthouse was in danger of collapsing into the sea, heroic efforts were taken to move it further inland because of its historic and cultural significance.

Similarly, Congress makes judgments on behalf of the American people regarding the value of historic and cultural resources when it enacts legislation to add them to the U.S. national park system. □



A cow walks on the dry earth as it heads for grass field in Svay Chek village on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, Cambodia, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019.

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In this Jan. 18, 2017, file photo, smog covers Salt Lake City as an inversion lingers.

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